

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 JUNE 2002



Mission at 22nd Street looking north circa 1907.

BLANK SPOTS ON THE STREET MAP

Why the Mission Corridor has 56 empty spaces

by M. Toby Levine

Walk along Mission Street, the "Mission Miracle Mile," on a sunny Saturday afternoon, and see colorful crowds of neighbors shopping for their families' needs. On Friday and Saturday evenings from six to midnight watch the crowds on certain Mission blocks move in and out of the bars, restaurants and clubs. On Sunday evening, try to decide which of the roll-down gates are shuttered for the night and which are among the 56 vacant locations on Mission Street and side streets.

There are voids (negative spaces) along the Mission Corridor. As of this moment, 39 vacant stores, one boarded vacant lot and one closed white elephant, the Mission Armory, are scattered along Mission Street between Division (13th Street) and Cesar Chavez. In addition, 15 vacant stores will be found on the side streets between Capp and Bartlett, making a total of 56.

In a similar survey, covering the same geography, completed by MEDA (Mission Economic Development Association) in 1991 during the recession of the early 90's, MEDA found 55 vacant storefronts. Negative spaces, in excess, create problems for commercial districts: problems of visual ugliness, lack of care for the space, loitering and the loss of foot traffic, the death knell for other merchants nearby.

Why so many?

The reasons for the vacant storefronts and buildings are varied and often historical.

Industry migration is one factor. Louis Roesch, a large printing company at 15th and Mission, had at one time over 200 union employees. (They are down to 10, and may soon be shuttered forever) These workers, combined with workers at the nearby sausage factories and the denizens of the Armory on 14th Street, enjoyed a tippie after work at the corner bar at 14th and Mission. After WW II, the printing industry slowly migrated away from San Francisco, which had once been the print capital of the west, to other areas of the U.S. and Asia where labor costs were lower.

This movement was further exacerbated by changes in print technology, which made such far-reaching change feasible. Top that off with the decision to move the National Guard out of the Mission Armory (1976) and the little workingmen's bar was eventually gated with only bits of paper and trash trying to enter its front door.

Fire plays a role in vacancies. Mission Street is an old street by San Francisco standards. The stretch between Division and 20th was destroyed and rebuilt after the 1906 earthquake and fire. South of 20th Street a number of the structures predate the earthquake, and one can observe dozens of picturesque Victorian buildings. (A few of these are very hard to find because their Victorian exteriors have disappeared).

Unless the buildings have been modernized with proper sprinklers and other fire safety systems, fire continues to take its toll on the street and in the area. Over

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Captain Corrales gets an earful from the day laborers. Photo by v e miller

Mission Station's new captain shakes things up

Drug and prostitution arrests praised, day laborer citations spark protests

Mission's Station's new Captain, Greg Corrales, has made promises to local residents and businesses to clean up the neighborhood's out of control drug trade and end prostitution in the Mission. Since he arrived, he has directed the resources of Mission Station to those ends, even after the San Francisco Police Department was severely criticized for solving only 28% of the violent crimes committed in the city.

Corrales' generally successful efforts to deal with the area's drug hot spots, such as 16th and Mission and 24th and Harrison, and his crackdown on prostitu-

tion, have drawn strong support from all quarters. But he has also become a target for protests because of what some claim is a get-tough policy toward the day laborers on Cesar Chavez Street.

Drug dealing

Corrales has spent about half of his 34-year career in narcotics, and regards his offensive on street dealers as directly related to reducing violent crime. "I would certainly not regard narcotic trafficking as non-violent crime because there's so much violence that goes hand and hand with drug dealing. By attacking

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Blank spots continued from page 1

four years ago, The Star Hotel (between 17th and 18th) caught fire, the residents had to flee, and two stores below were closed and boarded up. The owner is working very slowly to restore the property and bring it up to modern building standards. One day, *Irma's*, a popular restaurant on the ground floor, may be reopened.

These two shuttered shops, combined with four others on that block create a depressed atmosphere and limited shopping opportunities. The saving grace of the block is the very popular *Thrift Town*, which draws lots of shoppers, and even artists looking for costumes and props for their productions

BART construction killed a number of stores. The scale and size of the buildings built after 1906, particularly around 16th Street, was much greater than in the rest of Mission Street south of 20th Street. To some extent, they have a "downtown" or South of Market look. *Thriftown* is located in the Redlick's Building, which used to be one of the largest furniture stores in San Francisco. (There were several other prestigious furniture stores along Mission, including what became the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts.)

Redlick's closed after the construction of BART (1969-72), as did many other retail establishments that lost their customer base because the customers lost interest in shopping on Mission Street due to endless dirt, noise and disruption from day and night drilling and building. (It can be argued that Mission Street never

fully recovered from this disaster.)

The question then was what to do with Redlick's, that very large, solid building. Over time, the upper floors became garment factories, service businesses and retail establishments which depend on the internet (i.e. specialized book stores) rather than walk-in trade. So, in fact, many people are still employed in Redlick's, even though there are a number of vacancies. The building serves as an example of mixed use including retail, office and light industry. A key to survival for these businesses is to keep rents reasonable.

Changes in government policy can bring blight. The National Guard Armory and Arsenal at 15th and Mission was completed in 1914. It contained 190,000 square feet and 160 rooms including a shooting range, a swimming pool and a drill hall large enough to support an audience of 6,000 people for sporting events.

When the National Guard moved out in 1976, a serious community effort was made to find a way for the building to serve the community. A plan was completed in 1980, but for many reasons was never implemented. Now we have an empty white elephant that may or may not be used as an internet server farm. Who knows? But because of its size and emptiness, it creates a pall over the surrounding neighborhood.

The demise of large, single-screen theaters. After the '06 earthquake, over a dozen theaters were built in



The boarded up Cine Latino near 21st Street will soon reopen as a climbing gym.

the Mission and along Mission Street. In fact, the first professional theater to be constructed in San Francisco after '06 was the *Valencia Theater*, located at 14th and Valencia where the Greek Orthodox Cathedral now stands. It was a large, handsome concrete structure with an exceptional group of performers who drew patrons from throughout the City.

The *Valencia* was followed by the *Wigwam* (later named the *Rialto* and then the *Crown* and finally the *Cine Latino*), then the *Majestic* (later the *Tower*), and then *The People's Theater* (appropriately named). The *New Mission*, originally known as *The Mission*, was constructed in 1907. It later became the *Premium* in 1911 and the *Idle Hour* in 1913, and after a fire and considerable modernization, *The New Mission* emerged in 1917 as a 2100 seat theater providing a combination movie house, vaudeville shows and big band concerts.

Other theaters were added, including *The Sherman* at 22nd and Mission, *The Globe* near 24th and Mission and the Moorish *El Capitan* between 19th and 20th (now a hotel, shops and a parking lot).

Later, (1920's and 30's), according to Charles Dobie, in *San Francisco, a Pageant*, "Mission Street is crowded with shops, fraternal halls, movie palaces and undertaking parlors" and that remained the case until the 60s when the demographics and the economy of the neighborhood began to change. Today, only four theater buildings remain.

The *New Mission*, whose lobby is a furniture store, may one day be torn down completely or it may become a part of The Mission Community College, which is to be built on the site of *The Giant Value* (formerly *Hale's Department Store*). The other three are the long-vacant *Cine*

Continued on page 4

Now open!

Trattoria Luisa



New to the neighborhood is San Francisco's finest chef - Luisa - who is opening Trattoria Luisa at 1007 Guerrero Street. Chef Luisa has become a legend in her own time cooking fine Italian cuisine since 1959. Her many other restaurants include Luisa's, La Focaccia, Pastaio and Pasta Pizza.

Her new restaurant, Trattoria Luisa, features homemade pasta, lobster ravioli, porcinni ravioli and gnocchi (called a "pillow of love" and voted best in the Bay Area by the Bay Guardian). Moderately priced, Trattoria Luisa possesses a chic eclectic atmosphere coupled with an old world Italian flavor.

Chef Luisa has a passion for cooking which she sees as a "labor of love."

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Blank spots

Latino which is directly across from *The New Mission* (*Cine Latino* may be adaptively reused as a gymnasium with a giant climbing wall, using the theater's high fly space, and a fitness center); the *Tower*, between 21st and 20th, has been adapted to church use and is beautifully maintained inside; and finally the *Grand* between 22nd and 23rd, which is also a furniture store.

This whole long story about theaters is to illustrate that neighborhoods change; the needs of the residents change, and when large buildings, like any of the theaters, stand vacant or underutilized for a long period of time, the commercial district suffers.

Income is a factor. Historically, since the quake and until the years after WWII, Mission Street served as a "city-wide" shopping district, attracting shoppers from all of San Francisco. In recent years, the influx of shoppers to Mission Street from elsewhere has declined and it may be that the local resident income is insufficient to support 668 + shops in the Mission Corridor. The median household income in San Francisco is \$48,000. Mission households earn 10% less than the citywide median, and Hispanic households in the neighborhood earn 9% less than Hispanic households Citywide.

If the Planning Department's figures are correct, there are at least three possibilities for filling in the empty spots. If the 668 retail establishments in the Mission Street Corridor cannot be supported by the neighborhood residents' income, some people advocate reducing the number of shops and developing those properties for affordable work force housing.

Another option is to encourage development that meets the shopping needs of local residents while encouraging new, attractive enterprises on vacant or underutilized properties. And there are those who would just leave the street as it is in terms of shopping opportunities, and let "market forces" decide.

Other reasons for the current vacancies along Mission include: businesses moving, (i.e. one of the oldest Mexican restaurants, *Mission Villa*); an owner moving his business to the Peninsula (*Retlaw Cameras*); store fronts being undervalued and used for storage...there are a number of these; a lack of foot traffic (14th-15th Streets and 25th - Cesar Chavez); current remodeling (*Blue Room Gallery*); or an owner planning to redevelop his property with tenants being asked to leave (21st - 22nd) and, of course, business failure or bankruptcy.

The recession takes its toll. This April, 28,600 San Franciscans were unemployed, limiting their spending capacity. A year ago, in April, the San Francisco figure was 17,400, showing a 61% increase in 12 months. Neighborhood unemployment in turn has an effect on the shopkeepers and their ability to keep or hire staff, which, in turn, has an effect on the unemployment rate...all known as the vicious cycle.

Crime is a factor in the vacancy rate for certain blocks, particularly 15th-17th Streets that are third in the City for total incidents reported to the police in 1999. Looking at those same blocks in terms of empty storefronts, there are 10 (to 18th) with 6 concentrated between 17th and 18th. Other parts of Mission Street have fewer crime incidents (but still relatively high numbers) and are ranked, 23rd, (17th - 19th); 29th (19th - 21st), 30th (21st -

23rd) and 28th (23rd - 25th) in the City as we walk south toward Cesar Chavez.

Strong blocks, weak blocks

Another way to look at Mission Street is to examine blocks with strong attractants, (businesses with considerable foot traffic or strong needs in the community) whether by day or by night; and then to consider the same blocks in terms of vacancies. For example, between 24th and 25th there are a number of very strong businesses and anchors (i.e. Cultural Center, BART Plaza, Dianda's Bakery, *La Tacqueria*, *McDonald's*) with lots of foot traffic and no vacant stores.

However, from 21st to 22nd there are a number of very viable businesses, including *Banco Agrícola Salvador*; *Stamper Optometry* which has been at that location for four generations, *The Foreign Cinema* and *Galia* for the night-time crowd, *New Mission Market* and *Wells Fargo Bank*. Even so, that block has 7 vacant or closed businesses, the highest of any block along Mission Street. If the Community College is ever developed on this block, as planned, expect a set of dramatic changes.

From 22nd to 23rd, there are no vacant stores, and a number of high traffic businesses, such as *Walgreen's*, *Lucky Pork Store* and the shiny, new *Sketchers*. However, many of the tenants of the Bay View Bank Building were forced out, and so nearby restaurants and shops have lost customers. Further, the Bank parking lot has been closed to the public, making shopping less convenient. If and when the parking lot is reopened to the public and businesses are once again established in the Bank Building, many more customers will patronize the surrounding shops.

The second largest number of vacancies is between 17th and 18th Streets, with 6 shuttered storefronts. When *The Star Hotel* and its two businesses re-open, this block will experience a little renaissance. However, criminal activities will need to be reduced to encourage positive private sector investment.

The Future

Having gone through a highly speculative several years, which did considerable damage to residents, businesses and nonprofits and considering that San Francisco is in a recession, there is an opportunity to think about how we would like our favorite shopping street to change...to become more diverse and more satisfying. Right now, there is considerable repetition in the types of shopping available. So how about looking at what doesn't exist on Mission Street right now. (Think of the whole length of the street). Here's a few ideas:

Rehearsal studios (needs parking, though)

Musical Instrument Shop (though the pawn shops have lots)

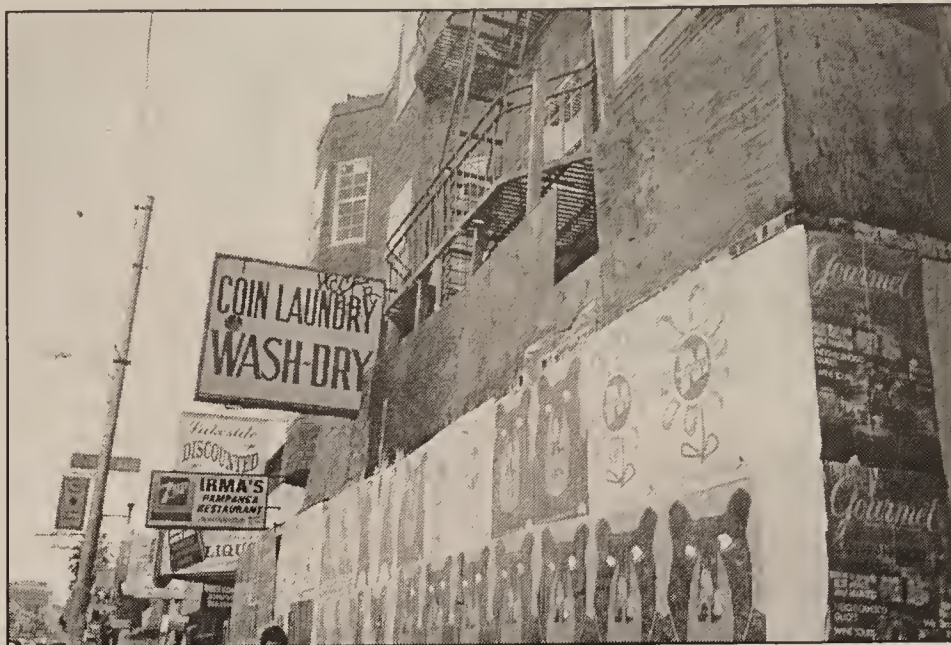
A diverse delicatessen with sit-down space

Health club and gym, which could benefit the energetic youth

A juice bar combined with an organic produce market

A really good ice cream store...like Mitchell's or St. Francis

A combined and well-supplied baby, children's and toy store...like the old McBlain's



The Winchester Mystery House took less time to build than it has taken to restore the Star Hotel near 18th.

An art supply shop for all the Mission artists and artists to be

A really good chocolate and candy shop (we used to have a See's)

More late night dining and clubs where people can dance

An elegant establishment for weddings, parties, anniversaries, retirement dinners and family festivities

A title company...sounds boring, but we don't have one on Mission

A theater for musical and dramatic productions

Do we need a cyber café? An office supply store?

More housing on Mission Street above the stores...there is plenty of opportunity

A store featuring crafts from around the world such as the Global Exchange on 24th Street

And you can add your own suggestions to the list. With this list and others, it would not take long for our 39 vacant storefronts and other mixed-use buildings to be filled which in turn would bring considerable employment.

Activists in the Mission are currently making an effort to plan the neighborhood in a more rational manner in order to prevent the displacement of residents, businesses and nonprofits that occurred over the past few years. The crux of this planning process is to figure out how an economically diverse neighborhood can be maintained so that no one is forced out due to speculation and displacement. And yet, at the same time, not be afraid of change or of trying new ideas, products, and innovative businesses.

Residents and businesses who are concerned about the future of the Mission neighborhood need to become involved with this planning process. To do that, you should work with your local neighborhood organization, or with your local business association and keep abreast of the discussions.

For further information and/or providing your input and ideas, you may contact San Francisco Planning Department - Sandra Soto, 575-6810 or Jill Slater, 558-6473 or in the neighborhood, you may call PODER - 431-421, Mission Economic Development Association - 282-3334 or Mission Merchants Association - 695-8702

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON RE-ZONING WEDNESDAY JUNE 19

John O'Connell High School

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6-8:30pm

For more information contact
Jill Slater at 558-6473 or jill_slater@sfgov.org



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JUNE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 at 7:30pm Manic D Press: *Concrete Dreams* and Jared Keene: *Monster Fashion*

THURSDAY, JUNE 13 at 7:30pm Dennis Cooper: *My Loose Thread*

THURSDAY JUNE 20 at 7:30pm Reading: 7 Card Stud with 7 Manags Wild

TUESDAY, JUNE 25 at 7:30 pm Devorah Major: *Brown Glass Windows*

THURSDAY, JUNE 27 at 7:30pm Hameeda Banu and Shahi Sadat: *Islamic Literature Series*

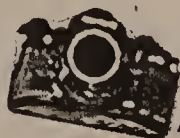
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Is this Maya Angelou's typewriter? Photo by Lynnly Labovitz

Latin Rock roots on are display at the Mission High School Museum

by Paul Romo

Typewriters have been with us for quite some time, and if you look hard enough, you might even come across one. They're still out there.

Understanding that, Walter Swan, curator of the recently established Mission High School Historical Museum, has generously put a few on display for those interested in revisiting a time when a Smith-Corona portable was one of the hottest little machines going. And although there's really no way to determine if on-the-move student Maya Angelou ever tapped away on any of the machines in the exhibit, it might be safe to say she probably scratched out a poem or two on school grounds.

She attended as a sophomore and, according to Swan, went through the summer school program and on to become Poet Laureate of the United States in the latter part of the last century. She was a civil-rights advocate, well-known author of banned books, and sometime Sesame Street host. Despite her limited stay at Mission High, Angelou's image will be prominently displayed in the museum for a while to come.

Not many people know that local disc-jockey-turned-record-promoter/ performer Sly Stone signed Bobby Freeman (who attended Mission High in the late-50's and will also be honored in the Historical Museum) and turned his song, "C'mon and Do the Swim," (more commonly known as "The Swim") into a Number Five hit. Bobby wrote the hit song, "Do You Want To Dance" when he was seventeen years old (meaning he was still at Mission High), which also rose to Number Five in the Top Forty during the summer of 1958. In simple terms, Mr. Freeman must've loved and hated the number "five."

Of all Mission High's well-known alumni, most attention will likely be paid to musician Carlos Santana. Graduating in the late 60's, Carlos went on to play the Fillmore Auditorium as well as the historic Woodstock Festival in 1969. He continued to put out chart-topping records from the 70s through the 90s, and won multiple Grammy awards in 2000. Santana has become a household name throughout the world. His enraptured, guitar-soloing image certainly add a glow to the Museum. Carlos' brother Jorge, along with other members of the band *Malo*, also attended Mission High.

Recently, the band reunited for the first time in over 25 years and performed a benefit concert to raise funds for schol-

arships, music and school programs. Their monster hit, "Suavecito," topped the charts at Number 1 in the early seventies and can still be heard on oldies and soul stations.

Currently in the works is a book entitled *Voices of Latin Rock: Music from the Streets*, documenting the whole Latin Rock sound in the Mission from that era. Considering that throughout their career, *Malo's* members numbered roughly a dozen (not including guest musicians), the Museum may need to devote a whole wing in order to exhibit all their individual photos; that, or a tight, panoramic group shot.

Adding to the scope of the Mission High Historical Museum will be a collection of sports memorabilia and equipment (concussion bucket football helmets; pre-webbing baseball gloves), as well as year-book photos (do you want to see what your grandfather looked like in his prime?) from 1910 to the present. Student artwork and a model of Mission Dolores will also be featured in the exhibition.

Also of historical interest is the fact that Mission High was the first high school in America to be established west of the Rocky Mountains. It has occupied five separate locations since it was first established in 1890, and has educated students in three different centuries. Not many people realize that there is a river, Rio de Dolores, which runs underneath the school from Dolores Park and which rises during the rainy season.

Fires, floods and earthquakes have all tested the venerable structure and yet it still stands tall and proud today. And its many former students, the famous as well as the obscure, have gone on to careers that have endured and affected numerous people in many different ways. The facility that gave them room to practice as they began to shape their skills has made its influence felt years and miles beyond the school's setting.

If you have an interest in California history and, more specifically, in the history of the Mission District and the place where some of the most celebrated and creative former students came from, the Mission High School Historical Museum is a fine place to start your journey; and you can also get a peek at the antique typing machines that helped generations of students waste reams of paper, slop White-Out everywhere and struggle endlessly through their term papers.

Mission High School Museum, 3750 18th Street Open to the public by appointment- 8 am-11 am, WEDNESDAY ONLY. Contact: Mr. Walter Swan at 241-6240.



Three San Francisco Healthy Kids pose in front of the logo at a recent San Francisco Health Plan Healthy Kids enrollment event at SF General Hospital.

Kids are the big winners in the Healthy Kids program

Coverage for everyone under 19 regardless of immigration status

Rachel Desjardins

Until this year, many families in San Francisco had two options for low-cost health coverage: *Medi-Cal* and *Healthy Families*. *Medi-Cal* is the state and federally funded health insurance program for the poor. *Healthy Families* offers low-cost coverage to households that make too much money to qualify for *Medi-Cal* but can't afford health insurance. Unfortunately, many families had incomes a fraction above the level that would make them eligible for *Healthy Families*, yet they still could not afford health insurance. These families were slipping through the cracks.

As a result, in January 2002 another option has been opened in San Francisco. *Healthy Kids*, a comprehensive health care insurance program funded by the City and County of San Francisco, serves children whose families' incomes fall a fraction above *Healthy Families*, but who still cannot afford health insurance. In addition to filling the gap between low-cost programs and high-cost health insurance, *Healthy Kids* provides health care for children whose families are undocumented immigrants.

For just \$4 a month, every child under the age of 19 living in San Francisco can receive health care, regardless of income or immigration status.

"We have the commitment of the Mayor's office to make sure the program is rolled out smoothly," said Mario Moreno, Community Relations Manager of the San Francisco Health Plan, the health care provider that runs *Healthy Families* and *Healthy Kids*. "I am encouraged by the fact that we are receiving support from the community. Whatever color, religion, or race, children sit side by side and illness has no boundary."

The program makes San Francisco the second county in California to offer nearly universal health coverage for children. It is the only city in the nation that is making strides toward universal health insurance funded solely by the city's budget.

"People from nearby cities ask me why we don't have a *Healthy Kids* program for them," Moreno said. "I tell them it comes from the community and [from] the pressure they put on elected officials." *Healthy Kids* is working hard to spread the word about the benefits of the

program. Promotional events held at schools, churches, hospitals and clinics are part of the out-reach efforts.

"There are now over 1000 children in the program," Moreno said. "Once the numbers increased it became easier for us to spread the word about *Healthy Kids*. Families told their extended families and friends that it was safe. There is safety in numbers. They figured it must be okay, and they became aware that the INS was not going to come after them."

Stressing the importance of preventative care, *Healthy Kids* believes that they are saving the City a great deal of money by serving those families who wouldn't be able to afford health insurance on their own. "The population we are mostly working with is Chinese and Latino," Moreno said. "They have very similar illnesses: high blood pressure, diabetes, and breast cancer. These illnesses are very costly and in the later stages they are deadly. If we detect them early, some of these diseases are treatable with a pill, which is much cheaper than emergency room fees."

Not only does the program stress the benefits of prevention, but *Healthy Kids* also believes their aid enables families to become financially self-sufficient, thus contributing to the entire community. "If a family is just starting to get on their feet, working hard, and becoming self-sufficient, it's very difficult for them to pay a large medical bill," said Moreno. "An unpaid bill could impact them severely and stop them from going in the right direction."

San Francisco's pioneering efforts towards universal health care serve as an example for the rest of the country. Many believe access to high-quality health care is a right of all people and should be provided equitably as a public service. This is not such a far cry from *Healthy Kids*, according to Mario Moreno.

"I think our program is a big step in that direction," Moreno said. "We still have a long way to go. I think once people see that the City of San Francisco is saving money because of this program, we'll be even closer."

To find out more about the *Healthy Kids* program, contact the SF Health Plan, 568 Howard Street, or phone 415 547 7826.



MISSION CULTURAL CENTER FOR LATINO ARTS

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Tejidos Zapotecos y Las Máscaras en los Rituales de México

The exhibition of 47 masks and traditional dance outfits from the various Mexican regions is showcasing the importance of the magic elements on religious ritual traditions that have accompanied the indigenous and mestizo people through the times.

OPENING RECEPTION EXHIBIT

Friday, June 7, 2002 June 7 - July 12, 2002
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Saturday, June 15, 2002 - 3PM-6PM

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RECEPTION

June 15th. Lobby, 2:30 PM.

EXHIBIT

June 15 - 29, 2002

OPENING PERFORMANCE

Theater, 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

POST CARNAVAL VIDEO PARTY

Theater - Video Viewing, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



In the Mission/Noe Valley:

88 Market
Asian Immigrant Service Center
L&M Produce Market
Multi-Herbs & Health
N&S Auto Body Shop
Wan Kee Restaurant
El Latino Newspaper
George's Market
Sunny Laundrette
Noe Valley Cleaners

Ingleside Terrace:

Dri-Clean Express

Ocean View:

Candlelight Child Development



In the Tenderloin/South of Market/Downtown:

Civic Center Market
Daldas Grocery
Sears Fine Food
New Beauty.
One Half
Party Animals
SF Religious Society of Friends

In the Sunset:

Cal Insurance

In the Richmond:

Clement Mini Market
State Farm Insurance
The Beauty Network

In Pacific Heights:

The Postal Chase

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

The SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is on the move

by Tom Mayer

The 26th annual SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival will begin on Thursday, June 13 at the Castro Theater and the Herbst Theater, and run through Sunday, June 30, while presenting one of the largest showcases for queer cinema anywhere in the world.

This festival, now the largest film festival of any kind in California, will present 289 films and videos, including 80 features and 209 short films. This year, a great many are from Asian countries, including some made in secret in China and brought out secretly to be edited and released outside China.

After 25 years at the *Roxie Cinema* and 12 years at the *Victoria Theater*, the directors of the festival decided to reduce the number of venues to two, and to extend the festival to 18 days. By adding the *Herbst Theater*, according to executive director Michael Lumpkin, "40,000 extra admissions" are added, since the *Herbst* is larger than the *Roxie* and *Victoria* put together.

The opening night film at the Castro Theater will be *Lan Yu*, directed in China by Stanley Kwan, and edited and released after being smuggled out of the country. This love story, based on an illicit Internet-distributed novel, spans a ten-year period including the 1989 resistance in Tiananmen Square.

The opening film at the Herbst

Theater will be *Notorious C.H.O.*, starring the irrepressible Margaret Cho in her latest and greatest performance film. Films will be premiered from many countries around the world, including Burma, Slovenia, Hungary, Norway, Korea, England, Mexico, Italy, Canada, Spain, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Russia, Iran, Japan, and Argentina.

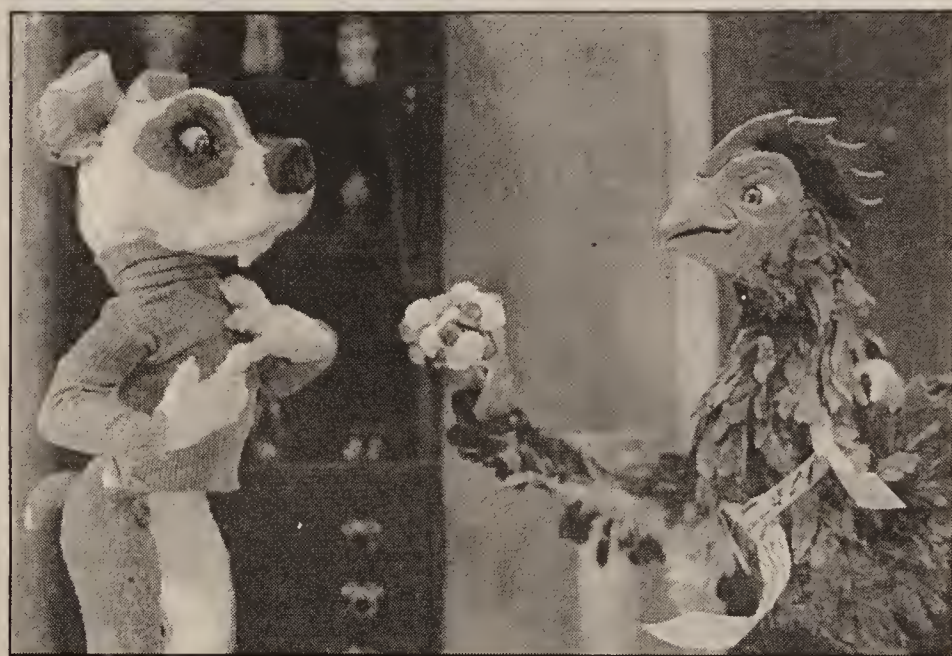
Local filmmakers will be represented by a large number of films, including *Harold's Historic Homo Home Movies*, filmed in SF and the Bay Area over the last 50 years by the now 91 year-old Harold O'Neal, showing a vanished underground subculture of day trips, bars, nightclubs and drag queens.

The festival is sponsored by the City and County of San Francisco, the San Francisco Arts Commission, National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Sundance Channel, the Goethe Institute, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and many other foundations and corporations.

Tickets will be available from the Festival Ticket Outlet at the LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market Street (corner of Octavia) from 12 noon to 7 pm daily through June 29. Tickets may also be purchased online at www.frameline.org or by phone (925) 866-9559, fax (925) 866-9597, or by mail (SFILGFF, PO Box 2229, Danville CA 94526). For more information on the Festival and how to purchase tickets, call the 24-hour hotline at (925) 866-9559 or visit the Festival online at www.frameline.org/festival.



Matt LeBlanc has a new look in "All the Queen's Men"



Cross species dating in "Tony + Pedro"

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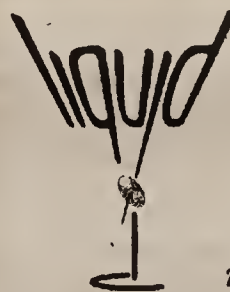
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The Daly Report

Supervisor Chris Daly



Sister Bernie

"Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there." -Rumi

Last month at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's annual dinner, I had the opportunity to honor a tireless leader in the struggle for social justice. In front of about 200 of the City's most ardent progressive activists, I delivered this speech on a national treasure...

"Sister Bernie Galvin, the third eldest daughter in a blue-collar Irish Catholic family of 17, became a Catholic Nun 45 years ago when she joined the Sisters of Divine Providence. After 17 years as teacher, and later a Junior High School Principal, Sister Bernie followed a renewed calling — to stand up for people who society had disregarded."

In 1972, Sister Bernie began 20 years of labor organizing, starting with sugar cane and mill workers in Louisiana, textile workers in Appalachia, nursing home and mental health workers in Virginia and with health care workers here in the SF Bay Area. And in the 1980s, after a year spent undercover in a North Carolina cotton mill, Sister Bernie organized Appalachian textile workers to fight for health benefits for workers suffering from carpal tunnel syndrome.

Calling homelessness a "moral and spiritual disaster," Sister Bernie founded Religious Witness with Homeless People, a coalition of hundreds of interfaith organizations, in 1993.

Immediately, Sister Bernie and Religious Witness went to work mobilizing a powerful challenge to then-Mayor Frank Jordan's Matrix program — an effort many believe played an important role in the Mayor's 1994 electoral defeat.

Sister Bernie and Religious Witness then dedicated themselves to stopping the demolition of Wherry Housing in the Presidio. Sister Bernie pointed out that the 466 units of housing could go a long way to help address the homeless crisis. She mobilized hundreds of people into the Presidio to demand that the housing be preserved and she was even arrested several times proving her point.

Sister Bernie also brought about the remarkable passage of Proposition L, which called on the City to do everything in its power to make housing at the park available to those who need it. But Sister Bernie's activism did not stop with the ballot. When Mayor Brown refused to implement Prop L, Religious Witness organized a 21-day hunger strike in which 727 people participated.

And this was not the only time Sister Bernie put her physical health on the line — when servers at Food Not Bombs were getting arrested, Sister Bernie was there with another hunger strike — this time effectively shaming the administration into stopping the crackdown.

Every year, Sister Bernie sets our moral compass on homelessness with

Religious Witness's Homeless Deaths Memorial. This year, Religious Witness erected a Memorial Wall, 88 feet long, bearing the names of the nearly 1,900 women, children and men who have died homeless in San Francisco over the past 15 years. May 22nd marked the end of this year's 3-day vigil to remember and to reflect on this social tragedy and shame. During the memorial, Sister Bernie called on us. "As our city officials work out next fiscal year's budget allocations, we gather in the shadow of City Hall to remember those who have died and [to] demand that our leaders refrain from budget cuts in areas that critically affect poor and homeless people: funding for decent, affordable housing, adequate healthcare and substance abuse treatment services, adequate safe shelters."

And Sister Bernie's activism is not limited to San Francisco.

Last year Sister Bernie organized more than 400 members of the *Religious Leaders' National Call for Action on Housing* to endorse the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund campaign. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund proposes that the \$5 billion Federal Housing Administration surplus be used to build more affordable housing for working families, and to preserve existing affordable housing. This would accomplish the following:

*Triple affordable housing construction across the nation next year

*Reverse the decade-long decline in the nation's low-cost housing supply

*Provide safe, permanent and affordable housing for over 200,000 working American families, including 2,000 units for families in the San Francisco Bay Area, thus reducing the numbers of working families that [are at risk to] become homeless due to the high cost of housing.

Sister Bernie has occasionally recounted this story, 'One day, I saw an old man. He had been living on the streets for a long time. His hands were gnarled and he was ragged. When I first saw him, he was stooping over in the mud. He held a tiny little purple flower for a long time. And I asked myself, what is it in the human spirit that can hold on to this tiny bit of beauty when he is living in such misery? In that moment, I discovered that homeless people are an example of hope for me... What gives me hope are the people with whom I've worked — the homeless people, the workers inspire me to continue. I am in awe of their strength and human spirit — how they move with dignity and hope through such suffering.g.'

Well, Sister Bernie, what gives me hope are the people like you with whom I've worked. I am in awe of your strength and human spirit and how you move with dignity and hope around such suffering."



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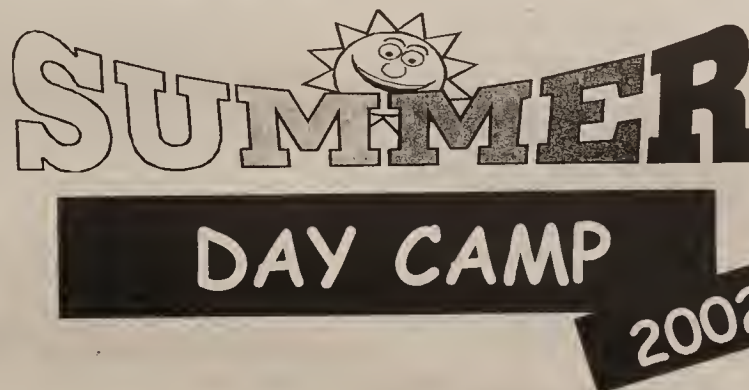
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Corrales

Continued from Page 1

drug dealing, we address other kinds of crime such as robberies and disputes over turf that lead to shootings and that sort of thing. When we minimize the number of drug dealers out there it also reduces other crimes," he said.

Guided by that philosophy, Corrales set up an aggressive program of drug buys by undercover cops, which he admits took personnel out of other areas. In a three-month period his buy-and-bust operation resulted in 485 arrests. The impact of this is most dramatic at 16th and Mission.

When Corrales came on board in February, the situation around the 16th and Mission BART station was worse than it had been in years. Gun toting gangs from the East Bay controlled a lively trade in heroin and cocaine that drew customers from all over the Bay Area. Armed robberies, assaults and miscellaneous mayhem were all part of the package along the two-block stretch of 16th Street between Valencia and South Van Ness.

In the opinion of those living near the immediate problem, Corrales has delivered on his promise to turn things around. "The crowds of people who used to hang out down the street from my club are gone; it's like the difference between night and day," said Peter Glikshern, owner of Liquid, a popular 16th Street night spot.

Jose Rubalcava, who has operated a flower store near 16th and Capp for 20 years, was also satisfied with the results so far. "Corrales is good people. Before he came here, there were maybe a hundred of these guys on the street, a lot them carrying guns. There were fights everyday and old people were being robbed all the time. I was ready to close my business. Now you only see one or two of these guys. It's a big change."

Charles Hamilton, who works as a security guard at the Redstone Building across the street, agreed, "Things have gotten a lot better." But Hamilton cautioned that some the hard cases remain, and others have just been displaced further down Mission Street. "I still see some of the same characters hanging around the pay toilet at the BART plaza when I come to work, about 6:45 in the morning."

Corrales' expectation that drug arrests will have a huge impact on other crime is only partially backed up by the police department's own statistics. In the last quarter of 2001 there were 157 robberies, 193 burglaries, 88 aggravated assaults and 399 thefts from automobiles. In the first quarter of 2002 there were 107 robberies, 157 burglaries, 103 aggravated assaults, and 381 thefts from automobiles. That's good news on robberies and burglaries, bad news on aggravated assaults and a warning never to leave anything of value in your car. When the numbers for April and May are available, they will tell a more definitive story.

Corrales is certainly determined to do things his own way, to the point of going undercover himself one Saturday morning. The captain met up with a hapless dealer who kept saying over and over "I really, really hope you're not the police," until he was arrested and all doubt was removed.

Prostitution

Corrales has made the claim that, "We are well on the way to eliminating prostitution in the area." He believes that prostitution, like drug dealing, necessarily

involves some degree of violence, whether it's pimps fighting among themselves or beating up prostitutes or prostitutes being assaulted by customers. His strategy in dealing with the problem has been to enforce a little-used section of the Police Code (PC 653.220) which makes it a crime to loiter in an area for the purpose of prostitution. This is determined by certain types of appearance (skimpy clothes) and behavior, such as flagging down cars with single male drivers, combined with having been arrested for prostitution previously.

While this is unlikely to result in any convictions under hooker-friendly DA Terence Hallinan, the prostitutes will be off the street for extended periods of time. "Our plan is: if they're not making money they're going to go somewhere else where they can. Whether they do any time or not is really irrelevant," Corrales stated.

In the last few years, prostitutes, pimps and their customers have inundated Shotwell and Capp streets from 15th to 21st, making life miserable for local residents. Jane Martin, a member of the Shotwell Street Neighborhood Association, a group formed in part to deal with this problem, gave Corrales a mixed score on this issue.

When asked if things were improving, Martin said, "I really can't answer that question yes or no. We don't see as much of the pimps and johns anymore at night, but in the daytime we don't see much progress." During the day, the prostitutes are under-age girls, some as young as 14 and 15, almost the same age as the girls in nearby St. Charles School at 18th and Shotwell and those taking dance classes at nearby ODC Theater.

Some of the dance students are dressed in a manner PC 653.22 could consider suspicious, and they may even flag down cars if they are expecting a ride. The loitering statute might prove to be not especially useful in sorting all this out, and could conceivably lead to some bad cases of mistaken identity.

Unfortunately, it's the daytime trade neighbors find so infuriating because children are right in the middle of it. "There are 16 kids on my block and 209 kids in St. Charles School, and they're well aware of what's going on," Martin said. Nonetheless, she seemed satisfied with Corrales' performance. "So far he's the only person in city government who has given me the impression he is not just making excuses. I think he is living up to his promises."

Day laborers

Corrales has run into his strongest opposition over his handling of the day laborer issue. Some, but by no means all, of the residents on and adjacent to Cesar Chavez Street have for years been at odds with the hundreds of day laborers who line the street each day looking for work. These residents have demanded the police take more aggressive action on quality of life offenses such as public urination, public drinking and blocking doorways, which are sometimes committed by a small minority of the laborers.

Renee Saucedo, director of the San Francisco Day Laborers, believes Corrales has responded to these demands by instituting a campaign of harassment.

On May 22nd, Saucedo and about 60 day laborers and their supporters marched on Mission Station for the second time in two months, and met with Corrales and



On May 24, five people were hospitalized after a shooting and stabbing melee at 22nd and Mission. The incident does not appear to be gang related, but may involve the sale of fake documents. The man pictured above fled the scene after being stabbed in the chest, and collapsed in severe pain two blocks away. At press time, no arrests have been made. 72% of San Francisco's violent crimes are never solved. Photo by v e miller

the press. "The day laborers do not feel they are being treated with respect by your department because their civil and human rights are being violated every day. They just want to be left alone to wait on Cesar Chavez Street for employers to hire them for an honest day's work," Saucedo told the captain.

Several of the day laborers came forward and told of being verbally abused, shoved and moved on by the police. "Why are the cops giving us tickets when we stand there? Where do they want us to stand? It is unjust they are taking away our right to work and to look for work. They criminalize those who look for work," one of them said.

Corrales said the ticketing, consisting of traffic citations, is only occurring on the two blocks of Chavez between Potrero and Bryant where cars are moving at high speed after exiting the freeway. He maintains employers stopping on this stretch to pick up workers constitute a safety hazard. Saucedo called the ticketing policy a "punitive solution to the problem" and asked Corrales to "implement a solution that is favorable to everyone."

There have also been incidents of day laborers taken into custody for trespassing, which Saucedo sees as part of the harassment campaign, but Corrales insists, "We will enforce laws against trespassing, drunkenness, urination." Corrales denies there is any special operation targeting the day laborers. "My

grandfather came to this country from Mexico and worked as a laborer all his life. I respect those guys and what they do. Why would I go down there and mess with them?"

One officer singled out by the day laborers for "hitting people" has since been reassigned. Corrales denied the accusation and said the reassignment was made because the officer, Joseph Salazar, was continually criticized by people he called "Renee's cohorts." "It was a no-win situation ... it was becoming clear to me they were using Salazar as a lightning rod, and he has moved to our gang unit." He also had a few harsh words for some of those on the other side of the issue, who he called "the two per cent who want everybody shipped back to Mexico, who do harm to reasonable neighbors."

Saucedo has promised to take the day laborers' case directly to Mayor Brown. Reflecting on his first few months at Mission Station, Corrales said, "So far, the only fly in the ointment here is Renee Saucedo."

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MISSION DISTRICT (CALENDAR

1 SATURDAY

A whole lotta rockin' goin' on – Telepathy, Ixia, Pushy, Bunny Sound, John Bennett and Channel 13 are all at Galia, 2565 Mission Street, 8 pm, \$10. 970-9777

You sexy thing – Opening reception for the 12th Annual Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Latina/o Art Exhibit. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 6 pm, \$3. Show runs June 1-30. 821-1155

Local color – The final day of the 1st Annual Women of Color Video Festival. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th Street, screenings all day. 701-9502 www.multiracialjustice.org

2 SUNDAY

Barbeque Salsa – Live Salsa sounds by Benny Velarde, Salsa dance classes at 3:15, complimentary omnivore BBQ 3-5, show 4-8. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, \$8. 282-3325

3 MONDAY

Meet Pete – Green Party candidate for governor Peter Miguel Camejo hosts a roundtable discussion on the Latino Agenda for the 2002 Elections. Participants include Supervisor Matt Gonzales, Sylvia Rosales of the New America Foundation, Luis Flores of the Central American Resource Center and Green Party co-chair Anita Rios. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission Street, 7 pm, free. 821-1155

Making it up as they go along – Improvising jazz greats and the Rova Saxophone Quartet lay down the licks in this two-day event entitled "The Art of the Improviser." Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8 pm, \$12-15. 626-3311

4 TUESDAY

Making it up as they go along – See 6/3

Food for thought – Author Kathleen Hart discusses *Eating in the Dark*, her investigative book on genetically modified food. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

5 WEDNESDAY

Short films for wee' folk – Free preschool videos for kids ages 3-5. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, 10:15 & 11 am. 695-9050

6 THURSDAY

Something to crow about – The Fifty Crows Foundation hosts a reception for the winners of the 2002 International Fund for Documentary Photography, 1074 Folsom, 6:30 pm. Exhibit runs June 7-July 27. 551-0063 www.fiftycrows.org

An eyeful – This week's installment of *Retinal*, an exploration of sound and moving image, features Kill the Robots and dj Sep. Galia, 2565 Mission Street, 9:30 pm, \$6. 970-9777

7 FRIDAY

Big top hijinks – Karen Peneley's *Circus Probiscus: A Sneeze of Freaks* is a dance/theater performance with elements of clown shamanism that includes six actors, dancers, singers, trapeze artists and a live band. Goat Hall, 400 Missouri, 8 pm, \$10-15. 662-6826

The artistic spirit – Reception for a group show titled *Spirituality and the Sacred in Art*. City Art, 828 Valencia, 7 pm, free. Show runs through June 30. 864-6884

Upstairs/downstairs – **Downstairs:** Mission Underground Records, Prime Time Events and Zonk present an evening of hiphop with Parway, Zonk (Mission trash hop), Company of Prophets and Groovement. 7:30-9 pm, just \$3 after 9, \$8: **Upstairs:** vaudeville and circus fare, including sword swallowing with Technomania Circus, 10 pm, \$7. Club Galia, 2565 Mission Street.

Small art and the monster draw – The opening reception for the 6th *Annual Post-Postcard Exhibition*, in which participating multimedia artists are limited to a shoebox-size format, also includes *The 2002 Monster Live Drawing Rally*, featuring dozens of local artists who will draw something or other on the spot. Southern Exposure Gallery, 401 Alabama Street, 6 pm, free. Exhibit runs June 7-15. 863-2141 or www.soex.org

8 SATURDAY

Big top hijinks – See 6/7

Holy holistic! Batman – A Holistic Health Festival in Precita Park will have something for all family, members and includes information tables, youth performances, food, arts, crafts and vendors. Noon-4 pm, free. 863-1100

I like dyke – This five-hour music marathon benefits the Dyke March and features Green, Andrea Prichett, Root and Shelly Doty and lots more. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, 3-8 pm, \$8-20. 282-3325

Walkin' the walk and eatin' the eats – *Caminata Culinaria de la Misión* is a walking tour of great places to buy ingredients for cooking Latin American cuisine, best local restaurants for eating Latin American cuisine, and art galleries, led by teacher and chef Laurie MacKenzie. 10:30 am-3 pm, \$65. To register, call 642-3939.

Good guys, bad guys – The tiny picture club presents 14 films about the evil doers trying to take over the world and the guys and gals in tights trying to stop them. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia, 8 pm, \$5. 824-3890

9 SUNDAY

Ouch!Ouch! - Pardon! Pardon is a documentary film on the Mardi Gras ritual of tiny Gheens, Louisiana, where trucks full of men dressed as ghouls chase local children and whip them with switches to cleanse them for Lent. The kids love it. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia, 8 pm, \$5. 824-3890

10 MONDAY

Punk lives! – Blatant Ridicule, Breast,

and Death Before Dishes carry on the Sid Vicious tradition. Club Galia, 2565 Mission Street, 8 pm, \$3. 970-9777

11 TUESDAY

Filipino duet – The authors of two books with Filipino themes discuss their work. In Noel Almuit's *Letters To Montgomery Clift*, a young man searches for his mother who has been disappeared during the Marcos regime. Two half-Filipino brothers can pass for white but their mother cannot in Brian Ascalon Roley's *American Son*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia Street, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9426

"What do you want to see?" – In this continuing series artists, actors, writers and the audience interact on issues raised by different basic questions. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia Street, 8 pm, \$5-15. 626-2787

12 WEDNESDAY

There's no place like home(opathy) – Free introductory seminar at the Pacific School of Homeopathy, 1199 Sanchez Street, 7 pm. Call 695-2710 in advance.

Crafty kid stuff – Free crafts class for kids, with Sophie. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland, 4 pm.

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13 THURSDAY

Navel maneuvers – This “Arabian Nights” event includes djs spinning Arab music at 9, belly dancing classes at 9:30 and a belly dance performance with Amira at 11. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, \$5. 282-3325

14 FRIDAY

The queer subcontinent – *A Muggy Night in Mumbai* is the first play in Indian theater to handle openly gay themes. (A panel discussion on Indian/Queer Theater will be held from 1-3 before today’s performance.) John Sims Center, 1519 Mission, 8 pm, \$5-10. 554-0402

“Love Stinks” – An evening of operatic cross-dressing and ill-fated love affairs with mezzo soprano Natalie Wilson and pianist Robert Schwartz, featuring the music of Bizet, Mozart, Handel and others. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 8 pm, \$10. 647-6015

15 SATURDAY

The queer subcontinent – See 6/14

CMC at MDB – The Community Music Center Orchestra performs Mahler’s Symphony No. 5 and Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 25 at Mission Dolores Basilica, 16th and Dolores, 8 pm, free. 647-6015

Ah Luis, Luis, oh baby you’ve got a show now – *Borges – The Time Machine* is an exhibition with over 180 items including personal letters, photographs and manuscripts of the famous Argentine poet, author and essayist. Main Library, 100 Larkin, free. Opening reception and program 2- 5:30. Show runs June 1 – September 1. 557-4277

16 SUNDAY

Going for baroque and then some - The “Baroque and Beyond” program includes Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music, followed by Israeli and Arabic folk music, in a salute to peace. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 4 pm, free. 647-6015 or www.sfmusic.org

17 MONDAY

Fame’s 15 – Fifteen-minute, developing works-in-progress are presented by up-and-coming new talent every Monday at the *Monday Night Marsh*. Tonight Anna Budd, Wayne Harris, Eve Meyer and Evelyn Pine get their shot. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8 pm, \$7. 826-5750

18 TUESDAY

Di Prima’s people – Marie Kazalia,

Pamela Lanza and Naomi Ruth Lowinsky, all students of beachick Diane Di Prima, read their work. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond Street, 7:30 pm, free. 586-3733

Herrera’s hordes – Poet of note Juan Felipe Herrera selects seven emerging poets to join him in a night of word-warrioring. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia Street, 8 pm, \$5-15. 626-2787

American bandstand – The SF Lesbian Gay Freedom Band kicks off its yearlong 25th Anniversary Celebration with a concert, “We’re an American Band,” on American themes from marches to Billy the Kid to the Native American diaspora. Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez, 8:15 pm, free. 255-1355

19 WEDNESDAY

Planining the Mission’s future - All residents, business owners and community workers are urged to attend this public meeting on re-zoning at John O’Connell High School 2355 Folsom, 6pm. 558-6473 jill_slater@sfgov.org

Kid’s stuff - Tye the Magic Guy plays the Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, 3 pm, free. 695-9050

Hoofers of the future – Six emerging choreographers put on their best stuff in the collaboratively produced show *Choose Your Own Adventure*. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, 8 pm, \$10-12. 863-9834

20 THURSDAY

Wild cards – Anthology reading by contributors to the Filipino literature publication *7 Card Stud with 7 Mangas Wild*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia Street, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246.

21 FRIDAY

Groucho the dyke – In Tina D’ Elia’s one-woman show, *A Day in the D’Elia Soup*, a Latina lesbian awakens one morning to find herself transformed into Groucho Marx. Cross-cultural, gender-bent hijinks ensue. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, 8 pm, \$10-20. 821-1155

22 SATURDAY

Groucho the dyke – See 6/21

Restore the Maestrapeace – *Rising Above Hate*, a benefit to restore the Women’s Building Mural vandalized in March, features Cuban band Batey, Loco Bloco’s women bateria drummers, spoken word artist Avotcja, Indian dancer Khusbu Srivastava, djs, food and drink. Women’s Building, 3543 18th Street, 8 pm. 431-1180 x20. Limited childcare available, reservations required: 431-1180 x17

Dylan but not Bob – In the one man show, “Dylan Thomas in San Francisco,” actor Kevin Reilly portrays the Welsh poet. Socialist Action Bookstore, 3425 Cesar Chavez, 8 pm, \$15. 821-0548

Affairs of the Heart – Dr. Edward Kesh conducts a free community health class titled *Cholesterol and Your Heart*. St. Luke’s Hospital, 3555 Cesar Chavez, 11 am. To register, call 641-6465.

A rose by any other method - The Rose Society conducts a free workshop on organic methods for producing happier, healthier roses. Potrero Gardens, 1201 17th Street, 11 am. 861-8220

Wine and cheese op – Reception for a show of charcoals and oils by Greek artist Dimitri Kourouniotis (www.dolmas.com). Noe Artspace, 3901 23rd Street, 7 pm. Show runs June 20 – July 30. 824-2550

23 SUNDAY

Bob spelled backwards is Bob - Mel Clay celebrates the 3rd printing of his “impressionistic memoir of **Bob Kaufman**, *Jazz, Jail and God*. Bird and Beckett Books and Records 2788 Diamond, 4:30pm, free. 586-3733

24 MONDAY

Bottoming out - The Walkmen, Madelia, and Ghost Orchids play the Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th Street, 9 pm (doors at 8:30), \$7. 552-7788

25 TUESDAY

Major writer - San Francisco’s poet laureate Devorah Major reads from her new novel, *Brown Glass Window*, the story of an African-American family in the Fillmore District. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia Street, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

Not approved by the FDA – Fresh Meat gives you all the fierce and tasty queer and transgender performance you can handle with 15 of the Bay Area’s hottest performers, including the Deep Dickcollective and The Sisterz of the Underground. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, 8 pm, \$12-15. 863-9834 or www.odctheater.com

26 WEDNESDAY

Not approved by the FDA – See 6/25

Laughs and flips for kids – Mystic Reality’s clowns and acrobats play the Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland, 4 pm, free.

Mind blowing – The Bubble Lady’s soapy amusements come to the Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street, 11 am, free. 695-9050

27 THURSDAY

Dead men sing no verses - The Bernal Heights Book Discussion Club takes on Salman Rushdie’s *Satanic Verses*. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland, 4 pm, free.

Fortified – Jayeson Vance, a former park ranger on Alcatraz, gives a slide show presentation on *Coastal Defenses of San Francisco: Alcatraz and Fort Funston*. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th and Church Streets, 7 pm, \$5. 750-9986 or www.sanfranciscohistory.org

28 FRIDAY

Eastern exposure – Asian Improv Arts (AIR) celebrates its 15th anniversary with Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble, Facing East Dance & Music and eclectic jazz from Red Jade. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, 8 pm, \$15. 863-9834 or www.odctheater.org

29 SATURDAY

More eastern exposure – Avant-garde jazz composer and saxophonist Francis Wong and friends perform at 8 pm, \$17-20, followed by a swing dance party with Yoko Noge & the Triangle Sister Cities Band at 10 pm, \$15. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street. 863-9834 or www.odctheater.org

San Francisco’s birthday party – Mission Dolores celebrates 226 years with a traditional mass of Saints Peter and Paul, bell ringing, presentation of the Peace through the Arts Award and music by Coro Hispano. Attendees are encouraged to come in a period costume or as the personae of their choice. Mission Dolores in the Old Mission, 16th and Dolores Streets, 10 am, free. 612-8203

Tasty Oaxaca – In this cooking class by chef Laurie Mackenzie, you will learn Oaxacan cuisine secrets while preparing Enchiladas de Bautizo, fresh shell bean soup and molotes, and also learn where to shop for ingredients in the Mission. Encantada Gallery, 908 Valencia, 10 am, \$50. To pre-register, call 642-3939

30 SUNDAY

Classy afternoon – The works of Schubert and others are performed by clarinetist Soren Green, soprano Sandra Coria and celloist Edward Cadman. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 4 pm. 647-6015



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ONGOING

THEATER, ARTS AND DANCE

Now Do What? – White Noise Radio's production features Beth Lisick and two collaborators who provide what is described as a "setless, propless, fully audio-enhanced theatrical comedy experience." The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, Fridays and Saturdays through June 8, 8 pm, \$10-17. 282-6024

Knuckles and Crunch – Two drifters find work at a gay bar in Columbus, Ohio in 1978; complications and plot development ensue. Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, through June 8, \$15-22. 861-5079

Electric Words: a Festival of Voice, Text & Electric Music – Nine performing artists lay down some voice and real time electronic riffs. Venue 9, 252 Ninth Street, Thursdays – Saturdays June 20-29, 8 pm, \$10-15. 289-2000 or www.venue9.com

The American Appetite – Pierre Vladimir Stroud's one-man show explores the puberty to death experiences of the American male and his voracious appetites. Noh Space, 2480 Mariposa Street, Thursdays – Sundays, June 6-16, 8 pm, \$12 (6/9 is pay what you can night). 487-8777 or www.killingmylobster.com/work/americanappetite

i feel love – Coming of age story set in San Francisco from the pre-AIDS anything-that-moves era to the latex present. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, Thursdays – Sundays, June 20- July 15, \$9-15. 626-2787

The much-heralded hoofers of the Deborah Slater Dance Theater present **The Sleepwatchers**, described as a "parable for our sleep-deprived times." ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, Thursday – Saturday, June 13-22, 8 pm, \$18. 863-9834 or www.odctheater.org

Rebel without a Pause – New Yorker Reno gives a 90-minute, one-woman show about 9/11 and its aftermath. Brava Theater Center, 2789 24th Street, Tuesday – Sunday, June 18 – 23, 8 pm, \$26. 647-2822 or www.brava.org

Rosita's Day of the Dead – The heroine of Rosita's Jalapeño Kitchen returns as a feisty restaurant owner who must deal with the chisme of the living and revelations of the dead while trying to fill sugar

skull and tamale orders. Teatro de la Esperanza, 2940 16th Street, Fridays and Saturdays, June 7 – 29, 8 pm, \$12. 255-2320

Kate's Chink-O-Rama – Just as the Abercrombie and Fitch "oriental line" is being pulled from the shelves, along comes Kate Rigg to test the envelope of cultural correctness with a kick-ass mad-cap review of every Asian stereotype from kung fu fighters to sweat shop workers. Brava Theater Center, 2798 24th Street, Wednesday – Sunday, June 5 – 16, 8 pm, \$24. 647-2822

Dance theater meets circus arts (aerial fabric, cloud swing, acrobatics, contortion, aerial hoop and juggling) meet contemporary rhythm (hip hop, breakbeat and downtempo) in **Circo Zero**, directed by Keith Hennesey, Location(s) still up in the air, Thursday – Sunday, June 6-29, 8:30 pm, \$20 (pay-what-you-can on Thursdays). 864-9834

CLASSES AND TOURS

The SF SPCA offers several different dog obedience classes throughout the month. Call the Dog Training Division at 554-3509 for details or go to www.sfsPCA.org.

Ever wanted to visit Alcatraz at night? Here's your chance. **Night tours of the Rock** – with special nature and history programs geared to the interests of locals rather than tourists – are now a very happening thing. Revenues from ticket sales support restoration and preservation of the National Park. Tickets are \$18 and are available by calling 705-5555. For more information go to www.nps.gov/alcatraz

Writers support group – Anyone interested in writing, from old pro to neophyte, is invited to this newly organized, free group that will be meeting on a monthly basis in Bernal Heights. For more information, call Larry at 695-0777.

The Somarts Gallery at 9th and Brannan is offering **Summer workshops for high school students in art and architecture**, no experience necessary. Classes run June 24- July 13 and July 29 – August 16, M-F 9 am – 3 pm, tuition \$25-500. Call 333-6411 or out of site@mindspring.com

Qi Gong classes taught by Liping Zhu, student of Taoist Master Yu Anren and a gold medallist in the 1996 International Martial Arts Tournament. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, Mondays and Thursdays at 6:30 pm, \$40/month/sliding scale. 861-4964

Astanga Yoga – Classes by Chalita Photikoe, who teaches the Astanga Primary Series integrating breath, bandhas and movement. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, Mondays at 6:30 pm, \$40/month. 861-4964.

Youth from 10-13 years can learn a variety of media, paper mache, sculpture, print-making, batik, puppet, mask, and jewelry-making skills at a workshop every Monday from 3:30-5:30 pm. **Precita Eyes Mural Arts**, 2981 24th Street, \$8 per session or \$50 for ten-class membership. 285-2287

Free meditation class. Psychic Horizons, 972 Valencia, Tuesdays at 7:30 pm. 643-8800

Taichi: Taiyi Swimming Dragon Chuan Form is taught by Liping Zhu, student of Taoist Master Yu Anren and a gold medallist in the 1996 International Martial Arts Tournament. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, Tuesdays at 6:30 pm, \$40/month/sliding scale. 861-4964

Figure painting for beginning and advanced artists wanting to learn to paint and draw the male and female form. One

Continued on page 14

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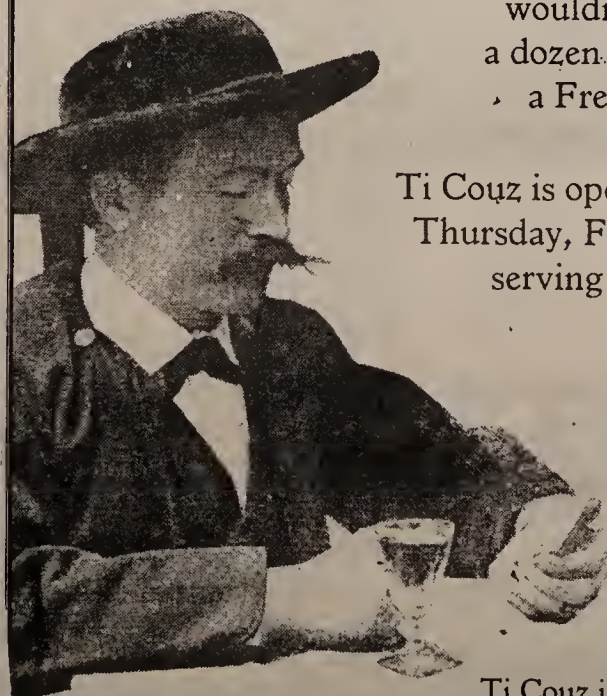


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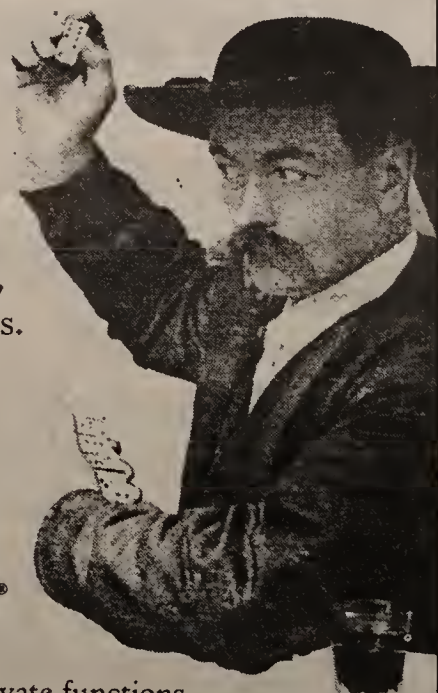
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pose is worked on per class. Precita Eyes Mural Arts, 2981 24th Street, Wednesday's 7-9:30 pm, \$8 per session or \$50 for ten-class membership. 285-2287

Free queer swing dance: basic with intermediate drop-in lessons. Stud Bar, 399 Ninth Street, lessons Thursdays at 6:30, dance at 7:30. 252-9611

Learn to ballroom dance at beginning Ballroom Dance Lessons, followed by a Ballroom Dance Party. Dance contests held on the last Friday of every month. Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th Street. Lessons are given Fridays at 7:30 pm, dance party 9 pm, \$15 for both, \$9 for the party only. 252-9000

Guided mural tour – See and hear all about 60 murals on a 10- block walk. Meet at the Café Venice on the 24th Street BART Plaza Saturdays at 11 am, \$2-10. 285-2287

Salsa classes with Ava Apple at the Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th Street, every Saturday, Level 1: 3 pm, Level 2: 4:30 pm, ½ hour practice session between classes. Single class, \$14. 8 class card, \$96. 252-9000 or www.metronomeballroom.com

Another guided mural tour – See and hear all about 50 murals on an 8-block tour. Meet at Precita Eyes Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th Street every Sunday at 11am, \$2-10. 285-2287

No War! – This ten week round table discussion on the current war and what is it good for began May 15 and continues weekly, with a hiatus on 7/3 & 7/10 . New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission Street, 7 pm, a light dinner (\$4) precedes each session at 6:30. 864-1278

Kids' Art, a workshop for kids ages 5- 10 who want to experiment with a variety of materials. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 348 Precita, Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 pm & Thursdays 12:30-5 pm, 10 classes at a cost of \$8 per class or \$50 membership. June 17- August 15

Kids' Mural Project – A workshop for kids 5-10 who want to paint a mural. Monday-Wednesday 3 to 5 pm, \$8 per class or \$50 membership, Precita Eyes Mural Center, 348 Precita. 285-2311

ning and development issues impacting the Mission District. Centro Del Pueblo, 474 Valencia Street @ 16th St., 6-7:30 pm. Call Oscar or Geri at 431-4210.

TUESDAYS

Are you smarter than Cliff Claven? Try the **Pub Quiz**, hosted by Angie. Fun and prizes. Dylan's, 2301 Folsom @ 19th, 8:30. 641-1416

WEDNESDAYS

Indulge your chess addiction with the all-levels **Chess Club** at 4 pm, or practice your Scrabble skills at **Scrabble Nights** at 7 pm, all ability levels welcome. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Avenue, 7 pm, free. 695-5160

Practice your Spanish in an all-levels **Spanish Conversation Group**. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 7 pm, free. 695-5160

The **International Socialist Organization** holds weekly, open meetings at the SF Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, 7-9 pm. 336-5034

SF Bicycle Coalition Volunteer Night - 5-9 pm, in SFBC office, 1095 Market St., Suite 208 (@ 7th). Every Wednesday, come to the weekly SFBC Volunteer night to do the things that make our office run, munch on pizza & snacks and enjoy the fine company of other cyclists. We can use your help! For more info contact Michael at 431-BIKEx1 or www.calfee@sfbike.org

THURSDAYS

Treat kids ages 3-5 to **Preschool Storytime** at the Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street, at 10:30 am. 695-5090

FRIDAYS

Gamesters, this is your night. Everything from **Scrabble** to **Cribbage** can be played with the regulars, irregulars and newbies at SF Games in their new location at Mission Grounds Café, 3170 16th Street, 7 pm, free. 820-3200 Ext.105

SATURDAYS

Storytime en Español for the whole family. Afterwards take part in a short craft activity. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 695-5090

Found footage, experimental works of genius and the just plain wacky are all part and parcel of the short and feature-length films screened at the legendary **Other Cinema**. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia, 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890

The **Mock Café** delivers comedy, comedy, comedy (some of it is even funny) at 9 pm. The dreaded open mic follows at 10 pm. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, \$7. 826-5750

SUNDAYS

Terry ("The Lesbian Woody Allen") Baum and Dr. Michael ("The Resident Expert") Goldhaber peruse the news of the day for insight and guffaws with help from the audience in **Operation Infinite News**. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market, 6 pm, \$5. Runs until most of the world's problems have been solved.

Live Flamenco Music and Dance – The flamenco group Arte and Compás performs live at Timos Restaurant, 842 Valencia, 7 & 8:30 pm. 647-0558 or www.timos.com

Dub Mission – Rotating resident djs Sep, Vinnie, Ludichris, J. Boogie and Maneesh the Twister spin the night away. Elbo Room, 647 Valencia, 9 pm, \$5. 552-7788

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Silicon Satan



The global village idiots

Even for someone as cosmopolitan as myself, it is often quite impossible to fathom the curious ways in which the minds of foreigners work. It goes without saying that people who regularly eat frog legs, snails, blood sausage, all manner of unmentionable animal innards, and, on occasion, even household pets—yet who feel compelled, in the name of “antiglobalism,” to vandalize any McDonald’s franchise foolish enough to attempt to serve them a decent Happy Meal—have a somewhat bizarre way of viewing the world.

Nevertheless, the intense hatred they harbor for America and our duly elected president evidences a thought process so out of synch with reality as to be almost psychotic.

Take, for example, their oft-leveled accusation that Americans are violent bullies—simply because from time to time, in the course of our various overseas adventures, we have had reason to bomb TV stations, wedding parties, refugee convoys, and, for that matter, the occasional Canadian. Clearly they are incapable of comprehending that the events of September 11th, when three hundred American jet passengers went obediently to their deaths like so many chickens to the McNugget factory, have shown that we are in fact among the gentlest and meekest peoples in the world.

After all, even a planeload of elderly Frenchmen on their way to a Vichy Government employees’ reunion would probably think twice about surrendering to a handful of Saudi trustfund-babies armed with glorified paperknives.

Why, moreover, are these benighted foreigners so resentful of our interference

in the affairs of their backward little countries? Do they not understand that we are simply trying to ensure that right and the rule of law prevail, and that their governmental institutions become as honorable and robust as our own?

Thus, for example, when President Bush recently attempted to stir up a military putsch against the democratically elected president of Venezuela, this was no doubt in part because he was concerned that that country’s supreme court had failed—unlike our own august body—to play its proper role in the electoral process.

And finally, why are our foreign friends so convinced that we are a nation of xenophobes, just because we are ruled by a president who sees fit to let hundreds of Arabs, Pakistanis and Afghans rot in permanent captivity, bereft of the protections of the constitution or even the Geneva Convention, and with no hope of receiving a fair and open trial?

After all, Mr. Bush certainly does not feel that *all* suspicious foreigners should be treated in this way. When it comes to wealthy Saudis, for example, he has shown himself to be quite the paragon of ethnic sensitivity—even, it is rumored, having helped stifle an FBI counter-terrorism investigation into links between the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, and the Saudi elite, lest his father’s overseas business partners feel discriminated against.

And, indeed, it is perhaps for no other reason than because—macho Texan that he is—he is afraid the world will come to see this sensitive side of his character, that he is so adamantly opposed to an independent inquiry into 9/11.

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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



by Paul Romo



Almost a park

The decade-long struggle by Mission District youth and community organizations to establish a park at 23rd and Treat Street passed another milestone last month with a

groundbreaking ceremony held on May 14. Supervisor Tom Ammiano was among the shovel wielders as Niños Unidos Park came one step closer to reality. By this time next year we will actually have a park. Lord willin' and if the creeks don't rise - as they say in Texas.

Blue Monday

With the availability of real estate vacated by the recent dot-com bust, performance spaces are frequently popping up...and staying. On Saturday, June 15th, gallery director Paul Mahder will introduce The Blue Room Gallery, a visual art and performance space located at 2331 Mission near 19th Street. An artist's reception will be held that evening from 7-9 pm. In addition, a public opening is scheduled the same day from noon to 10 pm.

Mahder and business partner Louise Zweben are determined "to vigorously promote artists, engage and support the community and forge lasting connections.

In addition to establishing contemporary artists, the space will be used for theatre, music, dance, poetry, performance, discussions and as a center to exchange free ideas."

Setting itself apart from other spaces, The Blue Room will serve as both a gallery and lounge, entertaining and stimulating guests both day and night. It will be open Sunday and Wednesday, 12 pm-9 pm, Thursday-Saturday, 12 pm-10 pm and will be closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

The Blue Room 2331 Mission and 19th Street 642-4047
email:redham1@aol.com

Focusing on the Future

Marcia Kimmel's training in drama gave her the advantage she needed to work with at-risk youngsters. With techniques taken from Method Acting coach Stanislavski, she was able to use the bolts of raw energy and spontaneity in her students, and inspire them as well as explore the secret sources of their creativity. This measure was key in developing a video training program that has been in existence since 1999.

Window of Opportunity (WIN), an innovative, non-profit program partially supported by Bay Area Video Coalition is designed to teach at-risk students how to produce and shoot a documentary video from start-to-finish as well as learn to write and act for video and theater.

The program is currently in progress at John O'Connell High School of Technology in the heart of the Mission District. WIN founders, Frances Oman and Marcia Kimmel have joined forces to provide this opportunity to thirty inner city students each year.

WIN seeks both public and private

schools that are interested in collaborating with them, in addition to donors to support WIN's school-to-career approach.

"Because 29 percent of our students are 'English as a second language' learners and 69 percent are 'educationally disadvantaged youth' we know they respond well and learn best when involved experientially. WIN helps provide the kind of learning experience that draws the students into meaningful and effective activity," Joan Hepperly, principal of John O'Connell High School said.

"Teachers and parents report that students involved in the program improve their ability to read, write and present themselves orally," Oman explained. By teaching the foundations of Stanislavski's technique: relaxation, concentration and observation, inner truth and ensemble playing or in today's lexicon, team playing, Oman and Kimmel are establishing a positive meaning to the word "drama" in these young lives.

For more information call Marcia Kimmel 826-6505 or Francis Oman (510) 601-5655

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Communication breakdown

For a moment imagine you're unexpectedly in bed, on your back, in a hospital trying to convey to the nurse at your side that your family plans to visit you but, because of a very unnerving language barrier, they don't know what room you've been assigned to. There are people who can translate and if you have that gift, St. Luke's Hospital is looking for you.

They are currently seeking volun-

teers who are bilingual in Spanish and English to assist patients at the front desks and visitors at the Information Desk. Volunteers are needed for a variety of shifts on weekdays, late afternoons, evenings and weekends. St. Luke's asks that volunteers donate a minimum of four hours per week. You will receive free parking, half-priced meals and free coffee/tea.

St. Luke's Hospital 3555 Cesar Chavez Street 641-6490

No strings attached

It was said that Mozart first composed at the tender age of four, and apparently conceived his work as a whole and only had to set it down on paper. The San Francisco Symphony seems to have something in the works when they expand a program called Adventures in Music, aimed at some 25,000 kids in 91 schools

and undertaken in cooperation with 1200 teachers. This wonderful outpouring will be provided free of charge and will include materials, teacher training and a concert in the latter half of May at Davies Hall.

Teachers in the Mission interested in implementing this program in their elementary school should call 503-5436.



Old Brown Eyes

With all the subtlety of an upended Port-o-Potty, *Monsturd* could've used a paddle.

Paying obvious homage to Italian directors Lucio Fulci and Dario Argento and the whole zombie genre, it's not difficult to see how far a one-line joke can carry a movie before the whole cast is in too deep. If viewing a piece of work that drops 'bodily functions' at least a dozen times per scene, coupled with characters called 'Jack Schmitt' and 'Johnny Waters,' sounds like something that would keep your interest, or if you somehow miss the complexities of third-grade bathroom humor, this is your movie.

As if the viewer wasn't up on pop culture enough, the filmmakers had to radio in their every reference (*Evil Dead* director Sam Raimi is name-checked over a police radio in one scene when the Dumb and Dumber cops give their location as Raimi Street; *X-Files* redhead Scully gets a nod as well as aforementioned inspiration *South Park*, logging in enough screen time to qualify as more than product placement), and even if their influences were lost on anyone, would it matter?

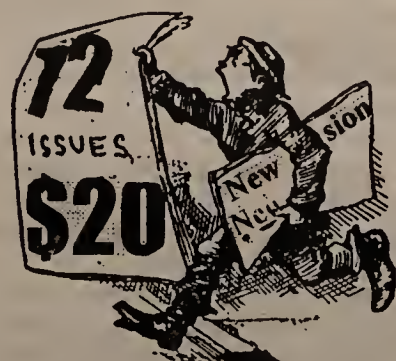
Surprisingly there were no references to either Godzilla or the Blob, which, if combined, the attacking *Monsturd* slightly resembles. And although some of the Bay Area sights that turned up on screen would never be mistaken for Tokyo or Phoenixville, PA, it is amusing to pick out Sausalito, Alcatraz, Morning Due Cafe and the back of the old Mint (not the karaoke bar) that doubled as a prison facade.

South Park cashed in on this brand of humor a few years ago and it is obvious that *Monsturd* is hoping that some of the magic will rub off, going as far as to have the narrator, played by a grade-school girl, hopefully utter, in the end, "...and Hollywood bought the script and made the movie for 100 million dollars." Tinseltown's up to its eyeballs in the stuff already, and really, is there any more room for an avenging escaped convict-turned-sewage-treatment-plant-monster that devours locals and outwits small town authority?

This is truly grassroots filmmaking. *Monsturd*, shot at numerous Bay Area locations was made for less than \$3,000 and utilizes the talents of 60 local actors. The score is by Emmy award winning composer Marshal Crutcher.

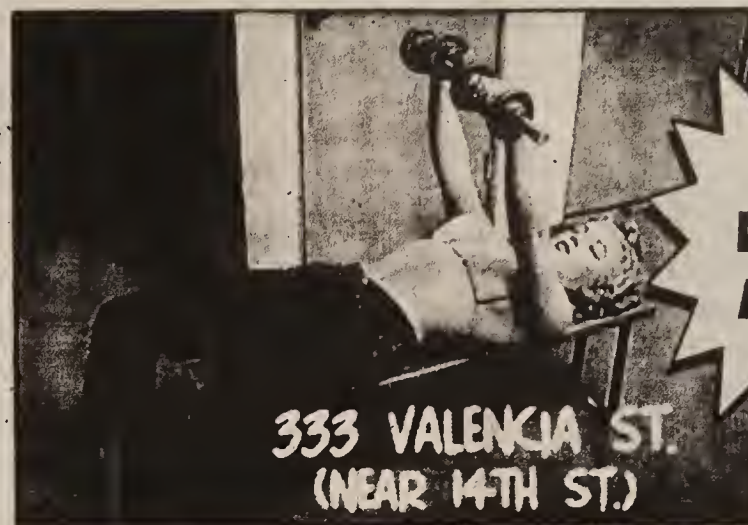
Monsturd screens June 7, 8 and 9 at the Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th Street. Tickets are \$6. www.4321films.com

Neighborhood Beat continues on page 18



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June 9 - Sunday - 4:30 pm - Poets Dan Liberthson & Paul Watsky

June 11 - Tuesday - 7:30 - Open reading celebrating the June birthdays of literary giants - bring a fragment to read

June 16 - Sunday - 4:30 - Poets Jorge Argueta, Teresa Kennett & Ina Cumpiano

June 18 - Tuesday - 7:30 - Poetry by "Friends & Students of Diane Di Prima" this month, Naomi Ruth Lowensky, Pam Lanza & Marie Kazalia

June 23 - Sunday - 4:30 - Author Mel Clay, celebrating the third printing of his "impressionistic memoir of Bob Kaufman," *Jazz -- Jail & God*

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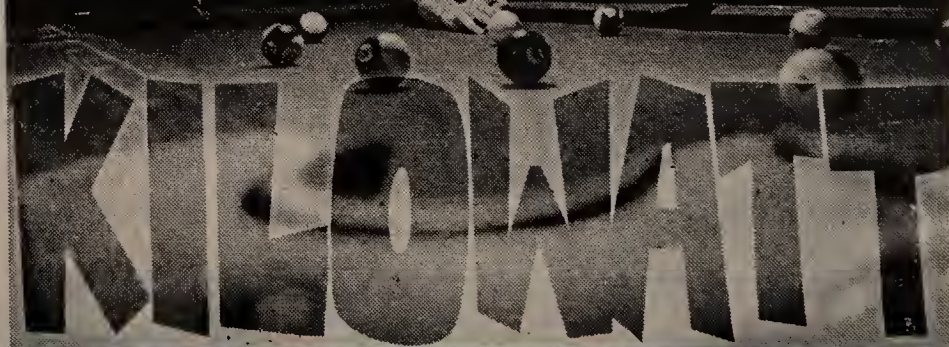
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Magic Carpets

Masks have been at the heart of Mexican tradition for centuries and have been continually used in religious ceremonies as well as ritual celebrations, transforming people's beliefs and communicating an array of powerful messages, using animal, devil and death masks to express mythical and magical tales.

In the month of June and extending into the middle of July, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts will present "Las Mascaras en los Rituales de Mexico" (Rituals of Mexico seen through Masks and Dance).

The exhibition showcases 47 masks and traditional dance outfits from various Mexican regions and highlights the importance of tradition that has long been

Queer Arts Festival

The new SF LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market and Octavia looks slightly unfinished. Or, rather, there don't seem to be enough bodies to fill the multi-level, nearly half-a-block long structure, most of the time.

Saturday, June 1st, should change all that when the 5th Annual National Queer Arts Festival (NQAF) kicks things off with a series of cultural events, exhibitions, performances and interpretive programs. The month-long festival runs from the first day in June through July 4th. Music, monologues, poetry and dialogue are all part of the celebration.

Highlighting the event, former SF comedienne Marga Gomez returns with collaborator Carmelita Tropicana in a brand-new show, *Single Wet Female*, a low-rent thriller in which both play perverted roommates, presented June 7-9 at 8 pm at SomArts, 934 Brannan at Eighth Street.

Running in tandem with the event,

Mean streets

When you have nothing, it is difficult to dream of the future. There really is no way to soften the image of a homeless child. Try wrapping your mind around the concept and unless you have even the slightest acquaintance with such a thing—let's face it, many of us don't—and your reasoning moves on to other concerns. Fortunately, an organization called A Home Away From Homelessness believes that every child deserves a childhood.

Since 1995, A Home Away From Homelessness has been providing support and assurance to homeless and formerly homeless children. In partnership with the National Park Service, Home Away fills the needs of these children with unique educational, recreational and social

Speaking in Tongues

How Latinos Learn English by Peruvian-born, San Francisco based Fortunato Brown, is a 96-page book intended to be used as a guide by English speakers who want to tutor friends or loved ones whose mother tongue is Spanish, and in the process the two can come to learn each other's language.

With a self-improvement angle, Brown realized how English should be taught to Spanish speakers, which led the teacher-entrepreneur to write several textbooks and start the small publishing firm which he runs out of his living quarters in the Mission under the name Bibliolatin. His activities branched into the production of visual aids and training films and, as a result, he began a film production company.

With his efforts, Brown may be onto something and be edging closer to filling an existing gap. This will give many Latinos living here, who would like to learn English, a place to start.

part of the indigenous and mestizo people.

Also included will be the "Tejidos Zapoteco" (Zapotec weavings from Oaxaca) by Pantaleon Ruiz Martinez, a weaver from the village of Teotitlan Del Valle (widely-known for its rugs and textiles), who learned the craft from both his father and grandmother. In addition, Martinez is the founder of Zapotec Weavings (www.zapotecweavings.com) where he spotlights his own designs and continues to emphasize the importance of his family's work and their ongoing tradition.

Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts
2868 Mission Street, 821-1155 Opening
Reception: Friday, June 7, 2002 7:00-
9:00pm Exhibition Dates: June 7-July 12,
2002

the 12th Annual Queer Latina/o Arts Festival will also run June 1-30. Opening Night reception is on Saturday, June 1, from 7 to 9 pm at the Mission Cultural Center. Also at the Mission Cultural Center, Tina D'Elia's *Groucho: A Day in the D'Elia Soup* will be presented Friday and Saturday, June 21 and 22, at 8 pm. Tickets \$10-20, sliding scale.

This one-woman comedy focuses on personality, sexuality, gender identity and cultural conflict between the characters Tina and Groucho Marx. Waking up one day, Tina finds she has transformed into Groucho and must go about her day, finding her new personality in conflict with her old one.

In *Cosmic Blood*, playing Saturday, June 15th at 8:30 pm at the SF LGBT Center, Gigi Otlavaro-Hormillosa explores the concept of mixed race as a result of colonialism. Tickets are \$15-20, sliding scale.

For tickets and more event info call 865-5611

opportunities. As they do so, children learn to build trusting relationships with peers and caring adults.

Home Away has provided its services to roughly 75-80 children per month who have and are experiencing homelessness. Serving over nine shelters in San Francisco and Marin counties, in addition to transient hotels and other unstable living conditions, they also serve those that have recently moved on to foster homes, public housing and private rental market housing.

To become a volunteer or become involved, contact: A Home Away From Homelessness, Fort Mason, Building 9, San Francisco, CA 94123 Phone: (415) 561-5533 or (415) 561-4601


To further complicate the experience of learning a new language, there is the tendency to simply let a person stammer, use incorrect tenses and quietly stare as they 'twist in the wind' in an attempt to try and get their point across.

Some people would say that the best way to show you care is to let a person use whatever means they have to communicate (falling back on their native language, pointing) rather than correcting or finishing their sentences for them, which generally is thought of as controlling and rude.

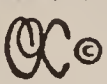
This perception hurts more than it helps and the author believes that when learning English, native Spanish speakers are best assisted by well-informed people who actively participate and who are conscious of the many problems facing a person trying to learn a new language.

Contact: Autores y Escritores (Jaime Arcila) 680-2489 or e-mail: jaimel0007@autoresyescritores.com

LESSOR KNOWN
TERRORIST
ALERT CODES




by Oliver Chin
ochin@sirius.com



Recently Tom Ridge, Director of the Office of Homeland Security, gave the public handy color codes to indicate the danger of potential terrorism.

If W could understand it, you can too.



Red

= Saints Preserve Us

Orange

= Justifiable Panic

Yellow

= Covering Our Butts

Green

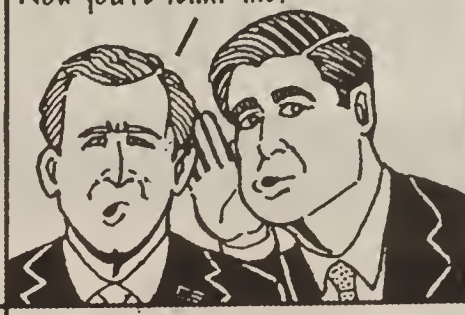
= Healthy Paranoia

Blue

= Asleep at the Wheel


However, recently FBI director Robert S. Mueller III has admitted the existence of a new "shadow" system.

Now you're tellin' me?



POLKA DOT

Status when federal energy policy gets undermined by corporate lobbying and accounting irregularities.



CHARTREUSE

Alarm when the TV show "Friends" is extended for yet another season.

Shill Weekly

Will Monica have "alien" twins?!

PR TONITE

Who really cares who's the Father?


AQUAMARINE

Attack on the US electoral system by rigging an election in a backwater southern state.

You can't vote.

These 3 count.

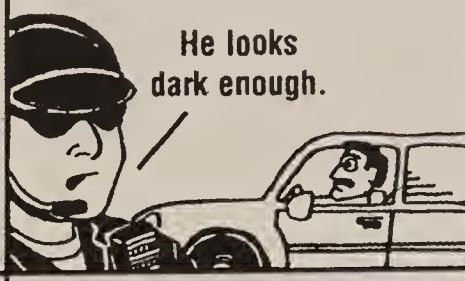
Goody! My brother won!



BROWN


Caution when police should start profiling suspects by their skin color.

He looks dark enough.



SILVER

Ringling when weapons makers secure hefty government contracts in a time of national hysteria.




GOLD

Signal to notice egregious Wall Street manipulation of the stock market.


Buy!

Sell!



RUST

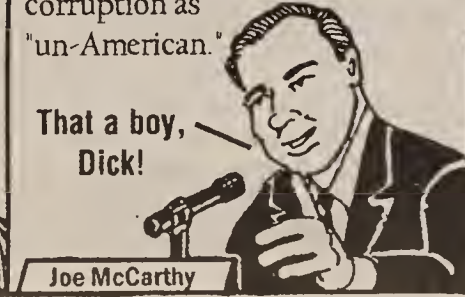
Warning to approve huge steel and farm subsidies to secure votes at home, while touting global free trade.



PINK

Fail safe: label the critics of executive incompetence and corruption as "un-American."

That a boy, Dick!



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Health Matters



Richard Pitt

Hormone replacement therapy and breast cancer

I have written on this subject before, but a recent report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* for February 13, 2002 has concluded that hormone replacement therapy (HRT) increases risk for breast cancer. In the study mentioned, investigators evaluated whether risk for HRT-associated breast cancer differs by histological type (area of breast affected).

The results showed that risk of breast cancer was 60% to 85% higher for women who used oral estrogen (alone or together with progestin) for 5 years before their diagnoses than it was for those who never had used HRT. With regard to lobular breast cancer, use of any HRT for more than 57 months more than tripled the risk, and use of combination therapy almost quadrupled risk.

For nonlobular (primary ductal) cancer, HRT use for more than 57 months increased risk by 50% compared with no use. Findings for HRT use during 10 years before diagnoses were similar to the 5-year findings.

The report comments that the data are consistent with results from previous controlled case studies, and indicate that HRT may pose greater risk for lobular cancer than for non-lobular cancer. Lobular cancer is less common than ductal cancer, but it may be more difficult to diagnose by

palpation and mammography. It is important to remember, however, that only 20% of HRT patients take estrogen for more than 3 years and that they generally are women in their early 50's who seek relief from menopausal symptoms.

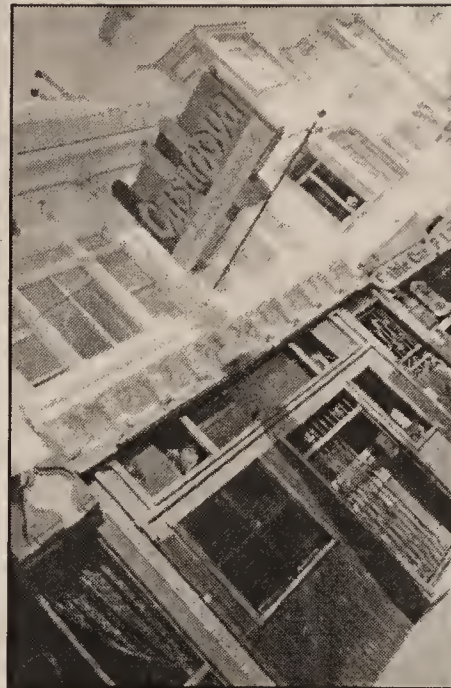
This report brings up interesting questions. It concludes that those who are most at risk are people who take HRT for longer periods of time. The group of women who do this mainly take HRT to help prevent osteoporosis, as opposed to the more acute symptoms of menopause. However, quite a number of women continue HRT to help maintain youthful features and body.

They, according to the study, are most likely to be at risk. In previous articles I've written on this subject, I have cited evidence which calls into question the effectiveness of HRT as a treatment for osteoporosis, since bone levels decline rapidly when the HRT is discontinued, even after many years of taking the treatment.

This report adds yet more weight to the argument that HRT therapy should only be done with great caution and should not be an automatic first step when approaching menopause or even when bone density levels show some decline in middle-aged women.

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Mission Branch

Bored? Teen?

Are you a bored teen? Or maybe you just know one. Well, we've got at least a partial cure for boredom here at the library – Teen Read, our summer reading program for teenagers 13 to 18. Teens can get thrilling prizes (like Border's gift certificates or free books) just for reading three books and doing three activities chosen from our list.

Activities include all kinds of fun stuff, like going to interesting places (a comic bookstore, the Golden Gate Bridge, or the oldest building in SF), and doing interesting things (taking a City Guides walk, answering challenging questions). Teen Read is happening in 18 SF libraries, including, of course, the Mission Library! It starts June 15th and ends July 27th, so put it on your list of exciting things to do (or suggest) this summer.

Besides Teen Read, which is a summer-only kind of event, we have all kinds of other reasons for teens to visit the library.

- There's the teen collection, which has books, magazines, CDs, books on tape, and videos especially chosen for their high interest to teens (in Spanish and Chinese, as well as English). You'll find graphic novels (like comic books, only longer) such as *Ranma 1/2*, *Spiderman*, or *ElfQuest* and comic collections like *Calvin and Hobbes* or *The Simpsons*. There is lots of exciting fiction – sci-fi (*Parable of the Sower*), fantasy (*The Hobbit*), and stories of people you'd like to meet (*Rules of the Road*) as well as books about magic and biographies of the latest teen celebrities. We have books about getting better grades, getting along with others and getting ready for college. And, of course, we also have many of the books required for school assignments.

- Don't forget the Teen Magazine section with popular magazines like *Gamepro*, *Wizard*, *Vibe*, *Eres*, *Low Rider*, and *WWF*. We also have lots of books to help you look for a job – write a resume, prepare for an interview, research career areas, and so on.

- Every month there are free programs for teens at libraries around the city. One of the most popular is a series of free SAT workshops coming up in the fall. Some examples of other programs are talent contests, and workshops on cartooning or tarot reading. Starting this month is a five-part DJ Skills workshop. Call any library for more info.

Teens who visit the library and check out what we have for them will be bored no more!! Well, way less bored!!

Programs at the Mission Library

Children's Summer Reading Club for all kids 13 and under – from June 8 to August 10. Fun and prizes!! Call or come by for more info.

Special program for all ages

Jose-Luis Orozco – Get ready to sing in English and Spanish on Wednesday, June 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Tye the Magic Guy – He will weave you into his magical tapestry on Wednesday, June 19th at 3:00 p.m.

The Bubble Lady – She will blow your mind with her bubble magic on Wednesday, June 26 at 11:00 a.m.

See you at the library!

The Library Lady

Send questions to Library Lady, c/o The New Mission News, 3288 21st Street, Box 202, San Francisco, CA 94110, or email her at Librarylady@sfp1.org.

Recycling San Francisco

Lolita Sweet

Recycle Your Old Cell Phone

By Lolita Sweet,
Public Outreach Associate

Cell phones keep getting smaller and sleeker, so it's no surprise that many people are buying the latest styles. In fact, statistics show that at any given moment about 24 million cell phone users nationwide are considering purchasing a new model. So what do we do with our old cell phones? "Whatever you do don't toss it in the trash, even if it doesn't work anymore," says Jared Blumenfeld, Director of San Francisco's Environment Department.

Cell phone batteries contain lead, mercury and cadmium. When discarded at the landfill, the batteries can release these toxic heavy metals into the groundwater, which can poison streams, wildlife, and drinking water. The better idea is to recycle your old cell phone, or refurbish it. In addition to reducing the amount of potentially hazardous substances in the environment, reclaiming and reusing the mercury and other heavy metals inside the battery saves us from having to mine new raw materials.

Refurbishing & Recycling Program

Verizon Wireless has teamed up with SF Environment to help San Francisco recycle cell phones, batteries, and chargers. But we do it with a difference. Whenever possible, the cell phones collected here are donated to the Verizon Hopeline program, where they are repaired and sent to domestic violence support agencies.

The refurbished cell phones can be lifesavers. The agencies give the phones to victims of domestic abuse, who can use the phones to call 911 in case of an emergency situation. "One in four families in the United States is affected by domestic violence," said Rosario Navarette, Interim Director of the Department on the Status of Women. "With this new program, our ongoing efforts in the arena of reuse and recycling can now benefit San Franciscans in a very different and positive way."

San Francisco International Airport is a major contributor to the program. Travelers from around the world will accidentally leave their cell phones behind, and the Airport Police Lost and Found Department donates the unclaimed phones to Verizon Hopeline. "SFO has donated at least 50 unclaimed phones a month since we heard about the program", says Airport Officer Ginger Huey. "I feel good about collecting these phones that go towards a good cause instead of putting them into our landfill."

Since October 1, 2001 San Francisco has put over 2,000 phones into the hands of the people who need them most. Other regions are now adopting similar programs. In Texas, for instance, more than 10,000 phones have made their way to help victims of family violence through statewide efforts.

Drop-off Locations

In San Francisco you can drop off your old cellular phones at any Verizon Wireless stores citywide. Verizon Wireless stores are located at 600 Harrison Street, 199 Pine Street, 1 Daniel Burnham at Van Ness, and a new store at 1015 Stockton Street at Washington Street. All phones donated are tax deductible.

Lolita Sweet coordinates the cell phone donation program for SF Environment, where she also works with neighborhood groups and businesses to improve recycling. For more information on cellular phone recycling, please call the SF Environment at (415) 355-3700, or visit our web site at www.sfenvironment.com



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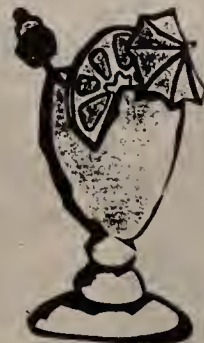
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POEMS OF THE MONTH

edited by Jorge Argueta

ANOMALY

I am not deranged, yet far from normal
sometimes I am driven by an impulsive emotion
I am not an academic or marked by education
I have never ambled through the halls of Harvard or Yale
my degrees and credentials derive from the street

Hard lessons to learn

Punches, kicks, and baseball bats pelted my body
until I could no longer hear the pain
Institutions of confinement attempt to crush my spirit
I have adapted and sit stoically
for months, years, and stare at concrete walls
War stories, jive-talk have all lost their novelty
I don't laugh and inmates stay away
noise from the television set blares for hours on end
telling us lies making us slaves
I live with death, my anger keeps me alive
it is my gift and my greatest virtue
forcing me to observe the truth
amiable faces can be deceiving
I have experienced life and tasted the city
As I lay passed-out, mouth against the sidewalk
somebody tossed me a quarter
I have found love and lost it many times
Her whisper still echoes through the corridors of my heart

She used to call me funny names

Books of insurrection and struggle are now my companions
mending wounds of ignorance and misdirection
I want to be a writer, or maybe a poet with a fancy beret
and leave my impression on a world
that loathes worthless monkeys.

—Tomas Alejo

Tomas Alejo grew up in Watsonville, California.

He is serving a seven year sentence in San Quentin.



Agneta Falk is a poet and a painter.
She lives in North Beach and in Europe.

TWO BIRDS

He put his hand
on my shoulder
we became a tree

our fingers moved
branches in a storm

afterward we slept
two birds, killed
by one stone
—Agneta Falk

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y que me haces loco.
Mira que me miras,
y que ya soy tuyo.
coqueta ojitos de melcocha,
de moño, camananzuda,
flor de almendro, flor de leche,
luz de luna, tu nombre es ensueno.
Mira que me miras,
que en verdad ahora alcanzo al destino.
Mira que me miras,
que nos reimos.
Niña que me miras

que ahora quiero más.
Mira que me miras,
¡Ay! mi corazón papita.
Niña que me miras,
que te hago mía.
¡...Ay! mía, mía
a mi boca vuelves agua ya,
helado blandito, tuti-fruti,
bocadito de durazno,
bizcochito, dulce de leche,
¡Ay! Niña linda ensueño de mi alma,
Mira que entre los dos,
al amor hemos atrapado ya.
—Rolando Carrillo

Rolando carrillo is a Salvadoran poet.
He lives in San Francisco.

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Steppin' out

Sonny Smith

Straight Outta Hunter's Point

There were a couple Hunter's Point rappers outside the Red Vic the other night. Big Mac and Hectic. They're both on the *Straight Outta Hunter's Point* compilation CD that goes with the documentary of the same name that was playin' at the Red Vic. I said, "What label are you on?" and Big Mac said, "I'm independent." and Hectic said something I couldn't understand, but I think it was: "Major label. I'm goin' major."

The point I'm tryin' to make here is that on the news in the last couple of years there have been reports that all the rappers in Hunter's Point are in some kind of gang war, each on rivaling labels. But if these two guys, Big Mac and Hectic, are on independent or some unnamed major label, well I guess that means they're not on the two HP rivaling record labels. And if they're not on those two labels and they're both rappers from Hunter's Point, then I guess the way the media says there's a war between all the rappers in Hunter's Point is kind of overblown. Right?

You could almost say it's kind of like 'yellow journalism.' Right? And you could argue that 'yellow journalism' by the local media about rapping gang wars in Hunter's Point could kind of help all the Hunter's Point Gang Task Forces get millions of dollars in grants for the taxpayer to support.

There IS a gang war, though. Through the documentary you can see that turf wars are prevalent in Hunter's Point, and apparently two of the record labels have become almost like gang colors. It's not that there is a gang war between two rival record labels where the leader or CEO of the record label is therefore the leader of the gang. It's that the two labels have grown out of two warring neighborhoods. The question isn't so much, "Why are two record labels rivaling?" It's more like, "Why are there two rivaling neighborhoods in HP?"

And, maybe more accurately, "Why are there a select bunch of gang bangers claiming these neighborhood blocks as their own and tryin' to kill each other?" It didn't start with the record labels. You know where it started; it started with slavery and with the creation of the ghetto. The way the media calls so much attention to the record label angle is just bull.

The young black men in the documentary seem to be victims of two main horrible atrocities. First, they're victims of the remnants of old slavery, the new economic slavery, the ghetto, the ghetto education, ghetto housing and all the disgusting attributes of ghettos. They also seem to be the victims of their own perpetrating, vain, impresario bullshit.

The best question of the Q and A following the movie was asked at the very end, by a black teacher from Oakland. She asked filmmaker Kevin Epps: "What do you tell a young black kid who isn't doing well in school is a good way to get out of the ghetto, since being a rap star isn't really a very dependable career choice?" And he said: "I don't know. That's why I made the movie, to raise the question."

For me, that last question and that last

answer, at around midnight on a Thursday night- for me, that moment symbolized the whole documentary. In fact, it kinda symbolized the whole fucking 'African American' question we face in this country. The whole economic question, gentrification question, and race question.

How do you get out of the ghetto if you're not a basketball star or a rap star? How do you survive if you're just a regular guy, if you ain't extraordinary Ivan Anderson or extraordinary Alicia Keys? What if you're just a regular guy? Or what if you're really talented, but there're only so many people can fit in the NBA, only so many people can fit in music industry's super exclusive celebrity jet set?

What do you do if you're just a regular guy on the corner who can make some good raps, even make a decent demo in a studio, who has three kids, gets caught up in turf wars, can't ever get out of the ghetto 'cause no one you know ever has, has to carry gun to protect your corner 'cause some kind of snowball effect of the ghetto-exploitation-divide and-conquer -most-likely-conspiratorial campaign towards decimation, just regular guy on the corner who makes a decent rap, has-a-bit-of-charisma regular guy? How the fuck does he get out?

This basic question makes the *Straight Outta Hunter's Point* compilation disk all the more poignant to listen to. Because, as with most local compilation CDs put out by local folks, there's a lot of priceless gems in it, but it's kinda hard to say if anybody's gonna make it out of the ghetto. Rap is so exploited by the entertainment machine at this point that it faces all the same hardships as everything else on the alternative market.

There's a lot of good stuff to listen to, stuff that may or may not be breaking through to a larger market any time soon, stuff that may or may not take these acts into a better economic class, to better schools for their kids and to better neighborhoods with healthier opportunities. Nevertheless, all of the material raises the same basic question as the documentary but, just like the documentary, doesn't really answer it. I guess we're supposed to find the answer ourselves but what is it.

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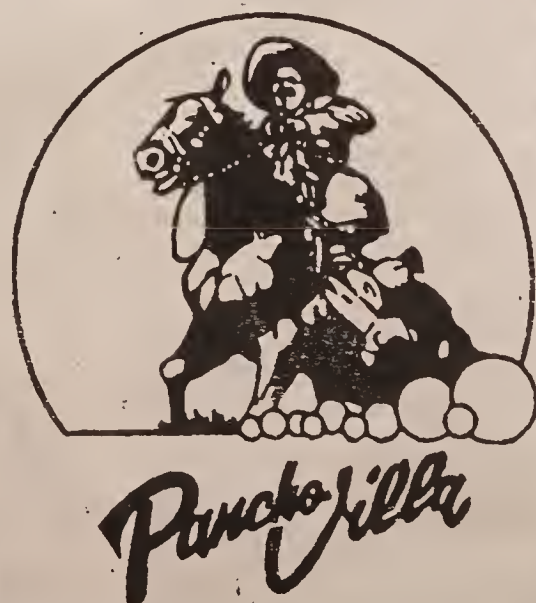
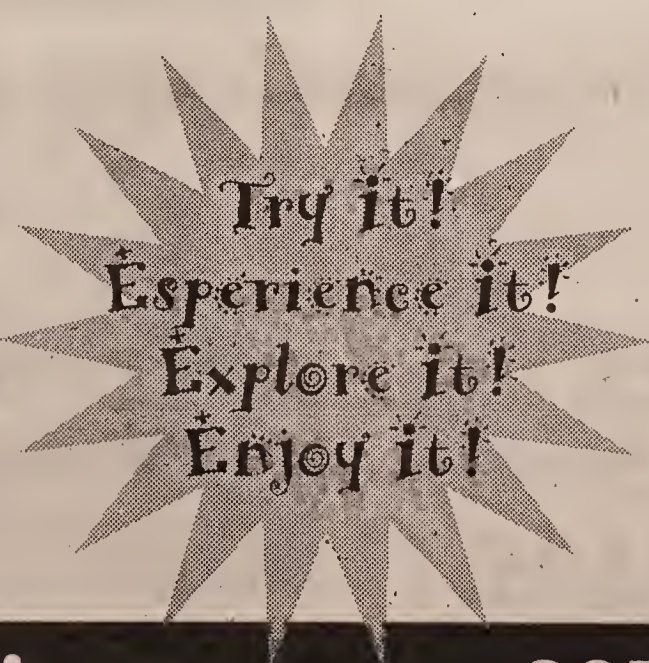
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